



Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside)

History

Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside) is a cladding material which was most commonly used between 1975 – 1985 and is often mistaken as a fibre cement weatherboard called Hardiplank. The two can be hard to distinguish, with only small visible details differentiating them which can often only be identified by a trained eye.

The manufacturer offered compensation packages to affected homeowners, which are no longer available. However, not every home owner who received the compensation chose to replace their cladding fully or in part

What is the problem with it?

It is manufactured wood fibres which have been glued together. Issues occur when moisture ingress causes the glue in the cladding to fail, this is often due to un-maintained paint systems, cracking, or damage to the cladding. The cladding would then swell, delaminate, and turn into “Weetbix™”. Left in this condition it could also allow moisture to penetrate and rot the timber framing.

How do you identify the product?

It is often difficult to determine the difference between Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside) and other products such as Hardiplank. The simplest way to tell if a property has this cladding is by a process of elimination. However, you should always ask a professional inspection company to provide you with a detailed report. Here are some elements to look out for.



Rot

This usually appears around nail holes and joints, as well as sometimes chips along the lower edges of planks. It is more common on the lower three of four boards and more so on damp sides of the house.

Bevelled Edges:

The edges are more bevelled than products like Hardiplank.

Colour

To check, try and find an area which is out of the way, and make a small scratch through the paint. If it is Hardiplank, it will be a light grey colour whereas Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside) will be a brown fibro-cement colour. Do remember to recover the scratch that you have made, even with some nail polish.

Size

As both Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside) and Hardiplank are the same width of 240mm, but Oil Tempered Hardboard is thicker by 2.5mm at 10mm with Hardiplank being 7.5mm

Sound

If you tap both products, you will hear that Hardiplank sounds a bit hollower than Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside)

Jointing

Hardiplank joints are usually plastic and narrower than those of Oil Tempered Hardboard (Weatherside) which is usually wider and metal.

What if I think my home has Weatherside?

If you are currently in a home with Weatherside cladding, the risks associated with it can be managed by maintaining the paint system and ensuring the cladding remains free of cracks or damage.

However you need to be aware that your insurance company are unlikely to accept a claim related to the product. We recently became aware of someone who had unknowingly purchased a Weatherside clad property; the paint system had been maintained and the cladding had never caused a problem until a flood went through the property. The bottom section of the cladding swelled requiring replacement and the insurance company wouldn't accept the claim as it was a product known to fail.

This guide is intended for general information purposes only. The content does not take your personal circumstances into account. You should obtain independent legal and financial advice before undertaking any transaction involving real estate.

Harcourts uses reasonable endeavours to ensure that information in this guide is current and accurate. To the extent permitted by law, Harcourts makes no representations of warranties as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information within this guide, and the use of this guide is at your own risk. None of Harcourts, its employees and any authors of the guide can be held liable for an inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the guide.