



FIXING EAVES & SOFFITS TO **STEEL BUILDING FRAMES**

WORKING WITH TRUECORE® STEEL

PREPARATION



BEFORE YOU START INSTALLING EAVE OR SOFFIT LININGS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT MATERIALS, FASTENERS, TOOLS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB.

MATERIALS

Confirm eave or soffit linings and support structures are suitable for the building and wind classification. This is an important step in ensuring you select the correct bearers and fastener spacing to suit the eave span you're working on.

FASTENERS

Choosing the right fasteners when fixing eave linings ensures the best finish, once eaves are painted.

Fibre Cement Boards (FCB) used for eave or soffit linings are available in a range of thicknesses, with 4.5mm and 6mm being the most common. Button, wafer, flat and low profile headed fasteners, are suitable for any thickness FCB, but countersunk heads should only be used on boards with thickness of 6mm or greater.





Several drive head layouts are available, the most common being Phillips or Square. Some fixers find square drive head screws easier to work with when installing soffits and eaves overhead due to their greater ability to

retain the screw while its lifted to the soffit board.

DRILL POINT HEAD TYPE FIBRE CEMENT STEEL FRAMING BASE METAL THICKNESS¹ \$uuuuuunb> 0.55mm - 0.75mm Needle Low profile 4.5mm or 6.0mm or flat headed ₩mmmmm⇒ 0.55mm - 1.6mm Metal Self Drilling 0.55mm - 0.75mm Needle Button 4.5mm or 6.0mm ¦ammmms 0.55mm - 1.6mm Metal Self Drilling \$mmmmmp 0.55mm - 0.75mm Needle Wafer 4.5mm or 6.0mm ammmm 🖻 0.55mm - 1.6mm Metal Self Drilling), dammunut 0.55mm - 0.75mm Needle Countersunk 6.0mm 1000000 0.55mm - 1.6mm Metal Self Drilling 1 For thicknesses outside this range please seek manufacturers' recommendations.

RECOMMENDED FASTENER TYPES

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WORK SAFELY WITH STEEL BlueScope recommends safety precautions are taken when working with steel - protect yourself with long sleeves, steel-capped boots, gloves and safety glasses and ensure you have the right tool for the job.





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FASTENERS (CONTINUED)

To avoid issues with FCB surface cracking, mushrooming around the head of the fasteners, or incorrect drive depth, seek FCB or fastener manufacturers' technical recommendations. Also check FCB board manufacturers' technical literature for spacing and placement of fasteners.

Fasteners used must be compatible with TRUECORE[®] steel, offer similar corrosion resistance to the frame and comply with BlueScope guidelines (see Technical Bulletin TB-34 Steel Building Frames).



TOOLS

Measuring tools and stringline can assist in ensuring eave linings are installed at the correct height and level.

Cutting tools, such as score and snap knifes, hand guillotines, fibre cement shears and dust reducing circular saws can all be used to trim linings to the correct length and width.

A driver or impact driver with the correct drive bit can be used to fasten FCB. If using an impact driver, an extended driver bit will assist in giving you a clear view whilst installing the fastener and improving driver reach; ensuring fast fixing with minimal exertion.



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Manufacturers of FCB strongly recommend the use of dust extraction or respiratory filters when drilling and cutting into FCB. Refer to FCB manufacturers' technical literature for guidance on the correct Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), tools and advice for safely cutting and drilling FCB.

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INSTALLATION



Installer to place bearers, hangers or battens flat and level. Batten out areas with light gauge metal furring channel. If using timber battens, ensure battens are isolated from the frame.



Eave and soffit support structures and fascias should be straight and true to provide a flat surface ready to receive the lining.



Typical eave or soffit linings are 4.5mm and 6mm in thickness and can be supplied in a variety of pre-trimmed lengths or large sheets that can be trimmed to length on site.



Once trimmed, position the eave or soffit lining in place before fixing. The eave lining should slot nicely into the groove on the reverse side of the fascia, plus almost finish flush with the opposing surface.



Whilst the board is supported, install sufficient fasteners to support the weight of the board. Finish by installing the correct fastener spacing to affix the board permanently into position.



Drive fasteners to a depth that provides a flush finish. Overdriven fasteners may result in stripping of the fastener, weakening of the fixing point or damage to the lining materials.



It's important to read each manufacturers' technical specification to determine the best method for joining and finishing eave linings, as methods vary between eave lining or soffit products.



Once all lining is installed correctly, fit storm molding or beading where required.



Now your eaves and soffits are installed ready for painting to be applied.

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