

# BARKCLAD® NATURAL POPLAR BARK INSTALLATION GUIDE

Proper installation of your natural poplar bark siding is crucial to ensure longevity and to achieve the most beautiful result for your home or project. Please read the following guide in its entirety:

## TOOLS:

1. Miter Saw
2. Table Saw
3. Nail Gun/ Drill
4. Tape Measure
5. Level
6. Chalk Line
7. Hammer
8. Utility Knife
9. Caulking Gun
10. Pencil

## MATERIALS:

1. BarkClad Bark
2. 30 lb, 3' Roofing Underlayment
3. Underlayment Nails
4. Ring Shank Nails/ Exterior Screws/ Ring Shank Staples (galvanized suggested to reduce any rust over time)
5. Clear Caulk or colored

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Natural poplar bark comes in three different grades or thicknesses: Interior (avg. 5"), Exterior Standard (avg. 5/8-7/8") and Super Premium (avg. 1-1.25").

Exterior bark thicknesses will vary slightly from shake to shake. BarkClad recommends using thicker shakes where the bark will be exposed to weather and thinner shakes where the bark will be moderately protected such as under overhangs on porches and eaves. Standard poplar shake heights are 18". The **recommended overlap from one horizontal course to another is 2"** but a greater overlap can be used if desired for a shorter exposed height. All shakes are random width ranging from 4" wide to 30" wide. BarkClad recommends alternating thin and wide widths as much as possible.

Bark must be attached using **galvanized ring shank nails, colored exterior screws**, either black, green, brown, or ring shank screws. Fastener lengths are determined by the thickness of the bark being attached. Fasteners must be long enough to completely penetrate through both pieces of bark through the overlap and completely penetrate the substrate. Ensure placement of the fastener through the ridges of the bark.

Typical fastener lengths are between 2.5" and 3". **Using fasteners that are too short or not applying enough fasteners will cause the shakes to curl and eventually crack.**

One row of fasteners shall be attached 1" from the bottom of each shake so that the fastener will penetrate the overlapped shakes. Begin fastening no more than 2" from the left or right edge of the shake and continue every 3 inches across the field. Never use less than 3 fasteners across any single shake. For vertical exposures more than 15", a second row of fasteners can be applied halfway up the exposure if desired. Be careful not to countersink fasteners and be aware of mechanicals and plumbing beneath the substrate. If using a nail-gun, regulate pressure to ensure no damage to the bark.

## BEGIN WITH WALL PREP:

The substrate must be OSB or rigid plywood or covered with an approved house wrap barrier that will offer water resistance and breathability.

## INSTALL (FIGURE 1/2):

1. Attach a kicker strip across the wall at the bottom edge of the lowest course of bark shakes. The kicker strip thickness should be equal to the thickness of the bark being installed, usually 3/4" – 1" thick. This will give the first course the proper outward tilt.
2. Attach the first course of roofing underlayment so that the bottom edge overlaps the kicker strip, and that the upper edge is higher on the wall than the top of the first course of bark. Each row of underlayment should be 18" (the length of the shingle).
3. Begin installing bark shakes from the far left, keeping the bottom edge of the shakes level with the bottom of the kicker strip. Make sure the installed shakes do not contact the ground. If installing above roofing or decking, elevate the bark at least 1" above the roof or deck and use flashing.
4. Nail as instructed in the GENERAL INFORMATION section.
5. Once complete with the first course, attach a new course of roofing underlayment so that the bottom edge of the underlayment overlaps the first course of bark by an amount equal to your chosen amount of bark overlap, but not less than 2".
6. Strike a chalk line to check that your course is level and begin installing the second course of bark shakes from the far left.
7. Nail as instructed in the GENERAL INFORMATION section.
8. Continue with additional courses as necessary.

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FIGURE 1 – INSTALL SIDE VIEW

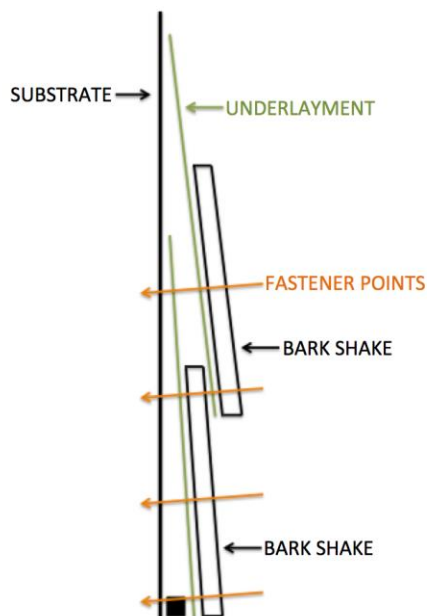
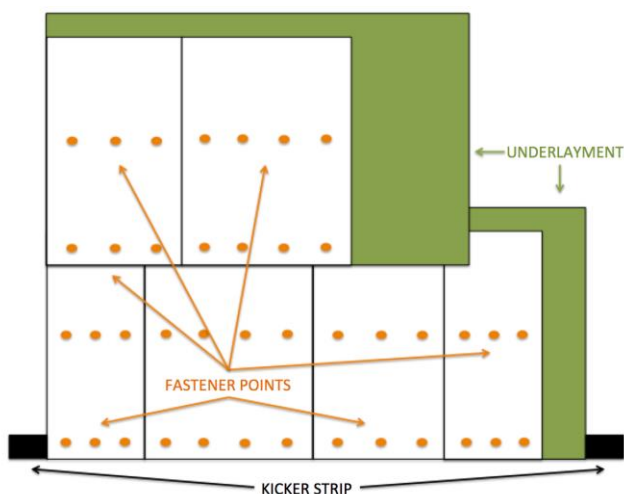


FIGURE 2 – INSTALL FRONT VIEW



## CORNER TREATMENTS:

Both inside corners and outside corners require careful consideration to ensure an attractive, weather-tight finish. Corners can be boxed out in standard, wood trim pieces or bark shakes can be mitered to make a trim-less or wrapped corner. If using trim, paint or stain the trim prior to bark installation and caulk the joint between the bark and trim when installation is complete. If mitering for a trim-less or wrapped corner, alternate from which wall the bark fully extends to the corner. Make sure all corners are weather tight. BarkClad recommends caulking seams as practicable.

## DESIGN:

BarkClad natural poplar bark can be installed using a straight edge design or a teardrop design.

## INTERIOR INSTALL

You can install interior grade natural bark the same way you do as exterior with an overlap. You can also put the bark shingles end to end, creating a flat wall of natural bark. With interior applications, BarkClad still recommends using a 30lb black roofing underlayment to just the surface of the wall to help keep the substrate from being exposed. Apply nail fastens as shown in Figure 2.

## STORAGE PROTOCOL

Once you receive your bark, take off any wrapping around the pallet to prevent moisture from gathering. All natural bark needs to be stored in a dry environment and banded until ready to install. If bark is not bound, make sure to keep weight on top for best quality.

BarkClad does not warranty natural bark products or the installation thereof. BarkClad recommends using a licensed and insured contractor for all natural poplar bark installations and instructions be followed.

Please feel free to contact BarkClad at [info@barkclad.com](mailto:info@barkclad.com) with any additional questions and thank you again for choosing BarkClad.

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**MUST READ**

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**INSTALLATION  
GUIDE**

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