

STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE

Architectural Polystyrene Mouldings and Associated Goods

PURPOSE

This procedure sets out the minimum requirements for receiving, handling, storing, protecting, inspecting and maintaining Thermatech architectural polystyrene mouldings and associated goods before, during and after installation. It is intended to preserve product condition, coating integrity, appearance and service life.

1. Scope

- 1.1 This procedure applies to Thermatech architectural polystyrene mouldings, including bandings, architraves, sills, soffit moulds, parapets, hoods, blades, decorative profiles and other coated EPS products supplied by Thermatech.
- 1.2 It also applies, where relevant, to associated adhesives, sealants, patching compounds, support components and accessories supplied for installation.
- 1.3 This procedure should be read together with any current Thermatech Installation Guides, project-specific drawings and instructions, product Technical Data Sheets (TDS), Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and Thermatech's warranty requirements.

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1 The person receiving the Goods is responsible for checking quantities, visible damage and general condition at delivery or collection.
- 2.2 The builder, installer or Client responsible for the Goods after delivery must ensure that they are stored, handled and protected in accordance with this procedure.
- 2.3 Installed mouldings must be protected from damage, water entry and interference by following trades until the project is complete.
- 2.4 Where site conditions or proposed storage methods differ from this procedure, contact Thermatech before proceeding.

3. Inspection on receipt

- 3.1 Inspect Goods as soon as practicable after delivery or collection and before installation.
 - Check the quantity and profile against the delivery docket, quotation or job documentation.
 - Inspect for transit damage, crushing, dents, gouges, coating damage, cracking, distortion or contamination.
 - Confirm custom profiles, lengths and major dimensions where relevant.
 - Check that adhesives, sealants, patch compounds and accessories are the products specified for the project.
 - Check product containers for damage and confirm use-by or expiry dates where shown.
- 3.2 Visible shortages, incorrect Goods or transit damage should be reported to Thermatech promptly, preferably before the Goods are installed or altered.
- 3.3 Do not install visibly damaged or suspect Goods until Thermatech has been given the opportunity to assess them.

4. Handling requirements

- 4.1 Handle mouldings carefully at all times. Although coated EPS mouldings are durable in service, they can be damaged by concentrated impact, dragging, twisting or excessive point loading before installation.
 - Carry long or large mouldings with enough people to prevent bending, twisting or dropping.
 - Support long mouldings at multiple points rather than lifting from one end.
 - Do not drag mouldings across the ground, scaffolding, truck decks or other abrasive surfaces.
 - Do not place heavy materials, tools or equipment on top of mouldings.

- Avoid contact with sharp edges, reinforcing steel, fasteners or abrasive masonry surfaces.
 - Use clean gloves where practical to minimise contamination of finished surfaces.
- 4.2** Large profiles, hoods and parapet sections should be lifted and supported in a manner that prevents localised crushing or bruising of the coating.
- 4.3** Mechanical lifting may be used where appropriate, but lifting points and slings must not cut into or deform the moulding.

5. Storage before installation

- 5.1** Store mouldings in a clean, dry, sheltered and well-ventilated area, protected from rain, direct sunlight, excessive heat, strong winds and construction traffic.
- 5.2** Where possible, store mouldings indoors. If outdoor storage is unavoidable, place them under a weatherproof cover that allows ventilation and prevents condensation from being trapped against the product.
- 5.3** Do not wrap or seal wet or damp mouldings in plastic.
- 5.4** Store mouldings flat on level bearers or supports that provide continuous or frequent support along their length. Supports must be clean and free from sharp projections.
- 5.5** Do not store mouldings directly on soil, wet concrete, standing water or uneven ground.
- 5.6** Stack mouldings carefully and keep heavier or larger profiles at the bottom. Do not stack to a height that could crush lower profiles or create an unstable stack.
- 5.7** Keep different profiles, sizes and project areas separated and clearly identified to reduce handling and installation errors.
- 5.8** Protect exposed polystyrene faces, cut ends and damaged coating areas from moisture and prolonged weather exposure.
- 5.9** Do not store mouldings near open flames, welding or grinding operations, heaters, hot exhausts or other ignition or high-temperature sources.

6. Storage of adhesives, sealants and patching materials

- 6.1** Store adhesives, sealants, expanding foam, patching compounds, cleaners and membranes strictly in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's TDS and SDS.
- 6.2** Keep containers sealed when not in use and protect them from excessive heat, direct sunlight, freezing conditions, moisture and ignition sources as applicable.
- 6.3** Use stock on a first-in, first-out basis and do not use materials beyond their stated shelf life or where the container or product condition indicates deterioration.
- 6.4** Do not substitute adhesives, sealants or patching products without Thermatech approval.

7. Protection during installation and construction

- 7.1** Once installed, mouldings must remain protected until adhesives, joint compounds, sealants, membranes and coatings have fully cured.
- 7.2** Prevent other trades from using mouldings as steps, supports, work platforms, tie-off points or temporary storage ledges.
- 7.3** Protect installed mouldings from:
- Excessive loading and impact from scaffolding, ladders, tools and building materials;
 - overspray, render, mortar, concrete slurry, paint, solvents and chemical contamination;
 - uncontrolled water entry behind or into the moulding;
 - prolonged exposure of unsealed cut edges or penetrations;
 - damage caused by roofing, flashing, cladding, window or waterproofing works; and
- 7.4** All exposed edges, joints, penetrations, rods and bracket interfaces must be sealed as required by the Thermatech Application Guide.
- 7.5** Where cappings, flashings or adjacent building elements are incomplete, temporary weather protection must be provided so water cannot enter behind the mouldings.

8. Maintenance after installation

- 8.1** Thermatech mouldings are low-maintenance when installed, sealed and painted correctly, but they form part of the external building envelope and should be inspected periodically.
- 8.2** As a minimum, inspect installed mouldings annually and after severe storms, building movement, impact damage, roof or flashing work, or any event that may have affected the surrounding building envelope.
- 8.3** Inspection should include:
- sealant joints around the top, sides and penetrations;
 - control and movement joints;
 - paint coating condition, including cracking, peeling, blistering, chalking or loss of coverage;
 - joint patch areas and moulding-to-moulding joints;
 - evidence of water staining, water entry or persistent dampness;
 - impact damage, dents, gouges or cracking;
 - movement, sagging, separation or loss of adhesion;
 - condition of visible brackets, fixings, cappings and flashings; and
 - changes to adjacent building work that may direct water onto or behind the mouldings.
- 8.4** Attend any damage as soon as it has been identified.

9. Cleaning

- 9.1** Clean mouldings using mild methods that will not damage the coating or paint system.
- Use clean water with a soft cloth, sponge or soft-bristle brush.
 - Where necessary, use a mild pH-neutral detergent diluted in clean water.
 - Rinse detergent residue with clean water.
 - Test any cleaning method in an inconspicuous area first.
- 9.2** Do not use abrasive pads, wire brushes, scrapers, aggressive solvents or harsh chemical cleaners.
- 9.3** High-pressure water cleaning should not be directed at moulding joints, sealant lines, cut edges or coating defects. Excessive pressure can damage the coating or force water behind the mouldings.
- 9.4** Do not allow organic growth, dirt or debris to remain trapped on horizontal surfaces or against sealant joints where it can retain moisture.

10. Paint and coating maintenance

- 10.1** Maintain the external paint system in sound condition. Repainting frequency will depend on exposure, colour, paint system, orientation, coastal conditions and the maintenance requirements of the paint manufacturer.
- 10.2** Where repainting is required, use a high-quality exterior coating compatible with the existing Thermatech coating and follow the paint manufacturer's preparation and application requirements.
- 10.3** Do not use solvent-rich coatings or products that may attack EPS or the existing coating system.
- 10.4** Before repainting, repair failed sealant, coating damage, cracks and water-entry points. Painting over unresolved moisture or movement issues may conceal rather than correct the problem.

11. Sealant maintenance

- 11.1** Sealants are service items and may require replacement during the life of the building.
- 11.2** Replace sealant where it has split, separated, lost adhesion, become excessively brittle or deteriorated to the point that water can enter.
- 11.3** Before resealing, remove failed material as required, clean and prepare the joint, and use a compatible paintable sealant suitable for the adjoining substrate and exposure conditions.
- 11.4** Particular attention must be given to horizontal top edges, cappings, flashing junctions, penetrations and any location where water can collect or be driven by wind.

12. Damage and repairs

- 12.1 Minor surface damage may be repairable using Thermatech-approved patching and coating methods. Repairs should reproduce the original profile, texture and protective coating as closely as practicable.
- 12.2 Cracks should not simply be patched until the cause has been considered. Check for substrate movement, failed sealant, water entry, unsupported spans, impact or movement at a building control joint.
- 12.3 Where a moulding is significantly crushed, detached, water affected, structurally unsupported or otherwise seriously damaged, contact Thermatech for assessment before repair or replacement.
- 12.4 Any building substrate, waterproofing, flashing, capping or structural defect contributing to the damage must be rectified before the moulding repair is completed.

13. Control joints and building movement

- 13.1 Building control or movement joints must not be bridged by rigid moulding, patching or sealant arrangements that prevent the joint from functioning.
- 13.2 Where a control joint occurs in the substrate, the corresponding joint must continue through the moulding system at the same location.
- 13.3 For long continuous runs, follow the control-joint spacing detailed on the project-specific documentation.

14. Records and reporting

- 14.1 For significant projects, the builder, installer or property manager should retain relevant records, including delivery documentation, installation photographs, approved variations, maintenance records and details of repairs.
- 14.2 Where a defect or deterioration is identified, photograph the condition before carrying out repairs and record the location, date and action taken.
- 14.3 Promptly report suspected product or installation issues to Thermatech where technical advice is required.

15. Conditions that may affect warranty support

- 15.1 Failure to store, protect, install or maintain the Goods in accordance with Thermatech instructions may affect the performance of the product and may affect any express warranty to the extent permitted by law.
- 15.2 Examples include prolonged unprotected exposure, water ingress, unsealed penetrations or edges, incompatible coatings or chemicals, impact damage, incorrect storage, unauthorised alterations and failure to maintain sealants or paint coatings.
- 15.3 Nothing in this procedure excludes, restricts or modifies any right or remedy that cannot lawfully be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law.

16. Quick reference checklist

Receipt	Inspect quantity, profile and visible condition before installation.
Handling	Lift and support carefully; do not drag, twist or point-load mouldings.
Storage	Keep clean, dry, shaded, ventilated, flat and off the ground.
Weather	Protect from rain, standing water, prolonged sun and excessive heat.
Site protection	Prevent impact, contamination and interference by other trades.
Edges / joints	Keep exposed EPS protected and seal all required edges and penetrations.
Adhesives	Store and use in accordance with current TDS/SDS and shelf-life requirements.
Inspection	Inspect at least annually and after severe weather or building works.
Cleaning	Use mild detergent, soft tools and low-pressure methods.
Maintenance	Maintain paint, sealants, flashings and cappings in sound condition.
Damage	Investigate cause before repair and contact Thermatech for significant defects.

17. Document control

Document	Storage and Maintenance Procedure
Applies to	Thermatech architectural polystyrene mouldings and associated Goods
Version	1.0
Effective date	11th August 2026
Review	Review when products, installation systems or warranty requirements materially change