

RAB™ Board HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding



What is fibre cement?

Engineered for durability, fibre cement is fire resistant, rot resistant and resistant to moisture damage, making it an ideal low maintenance building material. Fibre cement offers both contemporary and flexible design options and is used by many New Zealanders to create stunning homes.

The basic composition of Hardie™ fibre cement building products is Portland cement, ground sand, cellulose fibre, water and proprietary additives, which give the product its strength to stand the test of time.



Global GreenTag™ GreenRate™ Level A and Product Health Declaration™ PHD Platinum Health mean our products have passed the world's toughest standards for health, eco performance and safety.

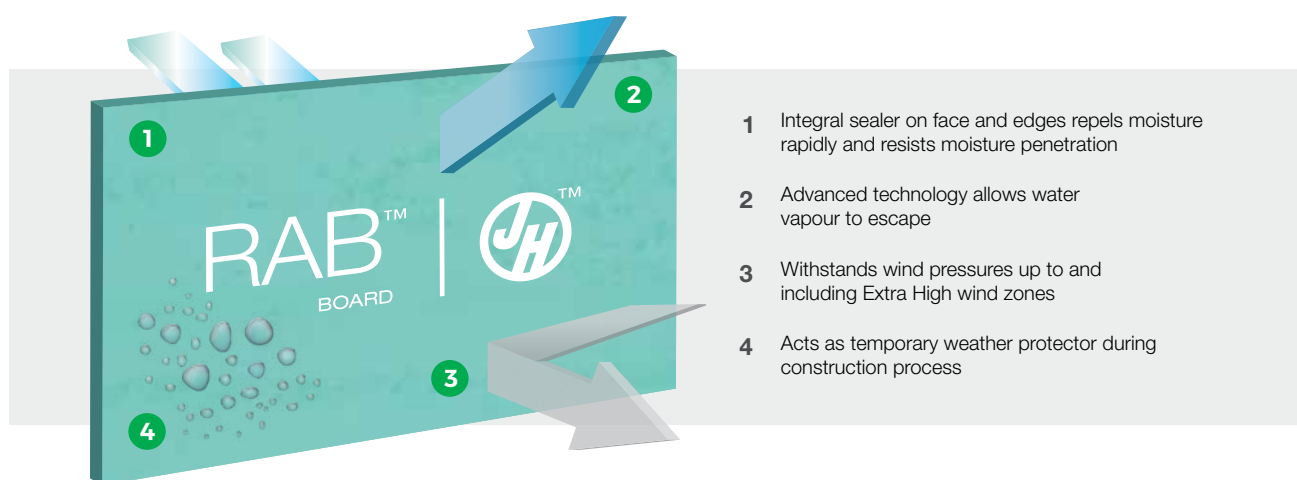
Create high performing buildings

LEADING THE WAY

For over 20 years James Hardie has created an evolution for the way New Zealanders build, we were the first to design and manufacture a specific product for use as a rigid air barrier called RAB™ Board, which now sets the benchmark for pre-cladding. Made from Hardie™ fibre cement board they meet the challenges of an evolving world, creating a stronger building and improving comfort inside.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

James Hardie's range of pre-cladding products work by equalising the air pressure within the external wall cavity, making the building airtight providing weather-tightness, structural bracing and fire protection, whereas traditional flexible wall underlay can struggle to perform in these conditions.



PRODUCT RANGE

- HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding 4.5mm is a cost effective rigid wall underlay designed specifically for up to Very High wind zones for residential buildings
- RAB™ Board 6mm is designed for up to Extra High wind zones for both residential and commercial buildings
- RAB™ Board 9mm is robust and impact resistant designed for heavy commercial buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 for Specific Engineered Design projects



HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding

HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding is a cost-effective robust rigid air barrier offering resistance to gusting winds to reduce draught and keep your home warm creating comfort inside. Each panel is engineered with a green water repellent sealer to keep moisture out, ensuring the panel remains dry. The structural stability of fibre cement creates the strength you need for your build meeting the bracing requirements up to Very High wind zones, making it the perfect solution for residential buildings.



EASY TO INSTALL

- Early close in helps avoid delays caused by weather conditions; removing the need to reschedule sub-trades and reducing unplanned equipment hire costs
- A complete solution for external wall bracing and structural connectivity of studs to top plates; minimising the need for internal bracing elements and for additional top plate fixings
- Eliminate secondary inspection, the lintel strap can be applied over HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding, saving time and produces a flat wall finish
- Score and snap with Hardie™ Knife, speeding up installation time and helps minimise the creation of dust on site



FIRE RESISTANT

- Suitable for use where non-combustible materials are required



STRUCTURAL BRACING

- Suitable as structural bracing for buildings within the scope of NZS 3604 up to and including Very High wind zones
- Suitable for wind pressures to 1.5kPa (ULS)



RESISTANT TO MOISTURE DAMAGE

- Creates a wind barrier equalising the pressure within the cavity to that of the exterior, enhancing the weather tightness of cladding systems used
- Built-in water resistant barrier
- Vapour permeability of HomeRAB™ Pre-Cladding allows the moisture to escape
- Resistant to warping and shrinking when exposed to the weather, can be exposed for up to 180 days during construction



COMPLIANCE

- Complies with B1, B2 & E2 of the NZBC
- BRANZ Appraised
- Achieves 50 year durability
- Covered under a 15 year product warranty
- CodeMark Certified

HomeRAB™ PRE-CLADDING SHEET SIZES

Product Code	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
404766	2450	1200	4.5
404768	2750	1200	4.5





RAB™ Board

RAB™ Board is an all in one bracing, airtight and fire resistant fibre cement rigid air barrier. The inherent strength of RAB™ Board makes it an ideal product for use in shear wall design in residential or commercial specific design projects. RAB™ Board is a non-combustible material which will achieve excellent fire performance, and up to a 60 minute fire resistance rating (FRR) can be achieved when installed as per the fire and acoustic design manual.

The unique green panel has a built in air and water resistant barrier to keep moisture out, while still allowing the moisture vapour to pass through allowing framing cavity to dry.

RAB™ BOARD 6mm



FIRE RESISTANT

- Suitable for use where non-combustible materials are required
- Up to 60 minutes fire resistance rating (FRR) can be achieved when installed as per the Fire and Acoustic Manual by James Hardie



STRUCTURAL BRACING

- Suitable for use in up to Extra High wind zones or for specific design residential or commercial projects
- Suitable to withstand design wind pressures up to 4.5kPa (ULS)
- Increases the overall rigidity of the structure, minimising structural movement



RESISTANT TO MOISTURE DAMAGE

- Built-in water resistant barrier
- Enhanced water repellent sealer on the surface keeps the framing cavity dry
- Resistant to warping and shrinking when exposed to the weather, can be exposed for up to 180 days during construction



COMPLIANCE

- Complies with B1, B2, E2 and C3.7 of the NZBC
- BRANZ Appraised
- Achieves 50 year durability
- Covered under a 15 year product warranty
- CodeMark Certified



RAB™ BOARD 9mm



ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE

- RAB™ Board 9mm delivers a superior acoustic performance when compared to other rigid air barrier alternatives such as 7mm plywood
- Sound Transmission Class (STC) 45 when used in a system



STRUCTURAL BRACING

- Suitable for bracing in residential and shear wall design in SED buildings
- Suitable to withstand wind pressures up to 4.5kPa (ULS)
- Increases the overall rigidity of the structure, minimising structural movement



FIRE RESISTANT

- Suitable for use where non-combustible materials are required
- Up to 60 minutes fire resistance rating (FRR) can be achieved when installed as per the Fire and Acoustic Manual by James Hardie



RESISTANT TO MOISTURE DAMAGE

- Built-in water resistant barrier
- Enhanced water repellent sealer on the surface keeps the framing cavity dry
- Resistant to warping and shrinking when exposed to the weather, can be exposed for up to 180 days during construction



COMPLIANCE

- Complies with B1, B2, E2 and C3.7 of the NZBC
- BRANZ Appraised
- Achieves 50 year durability
- Covered under a 15 year product warranty
- CodeMark Certified



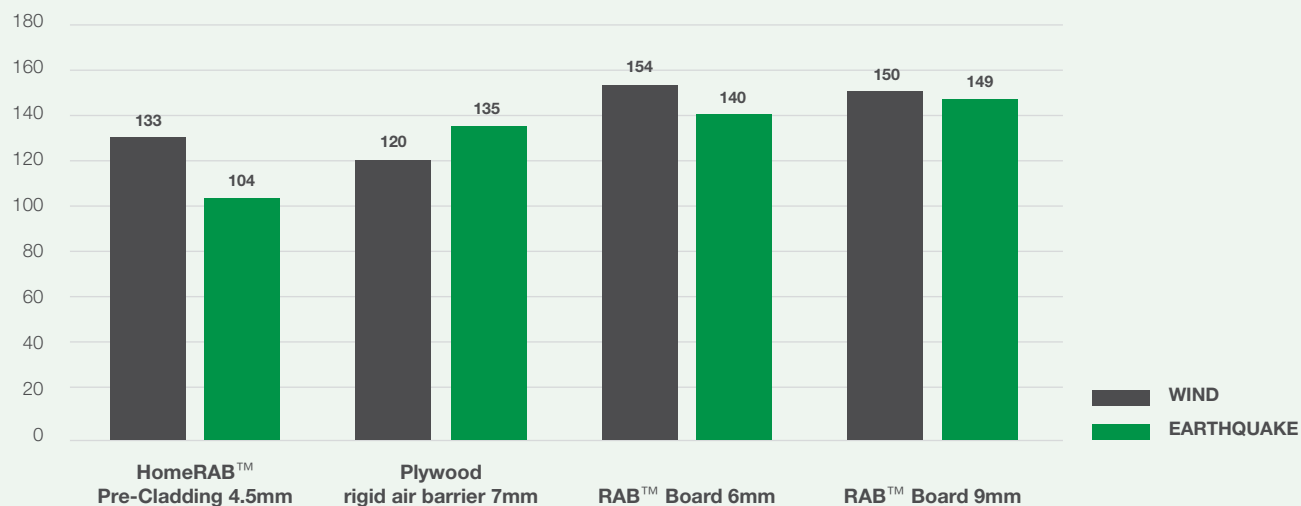


RAB™ BOARD SHEET SIZES

Product Code	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)
402980	2450	1200	6
405131	2750	1200	6
402981	3000	1200	6
405132	2450	1200	9
404972	2750	1200	9
404971	3000	1200	9

Density of 1250kg/m³

STRUCTURAL BRACING



Bracing units per metre (length 1200mm)

For further information on bracing refer to the Bracing Design Manual by James Hardie or **Ask James Hardie on 0800 808 868.**

Case Study

The Sargeson

FEATURED PRODUCTS

RAB™ Board
6 & 9mm

PROJECT DETAILS

LOCATION
33a Anzac Street,
Takapuna

PROJECT TYPE
Commercial

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER
Walker Architects

PROJECT BUILDER
Marc Forrester,
CMP Construction Ltd



Comprising 92 apartments in two six-level towers, the Sargeson Apartments are located within the picturesque Auburn Reserve on the North Shore of Auckland.

Named after Takapuna's most famous resident, Frank Sargeson, a founder of modern New Zealand literature, the apartment is inspired by both culture and location. Dark volcanic colours found throughout Takapuna were inspirations for the exterior materials, including zinc steel cladding, white stone, and timber.

The exterior cladding is fixed to RAB™ Board by James Hardie, a pre-cladding product manufactured from fibre cement. Project Manager, Marc Forrester of CMP Construction, says the pre-sealed sheets were quick and easy to install. They are simply scored, snapped, and nailed into place.

They are also dimensionally stable and weather resistant, allowing the site to be closed in faster and enabling more flexibility

in managing the build. It will not warp or shrink when exposed to the weather and can be left exposed for up to 180 days after fixing.

RAB™ Board now comes in two thicknesses; 6 and 9mm. Due to its added density, the 9mm RAB™ Board is suitable for use as a rigid air barrier in buildings where external noise needs to be reduced and was used in the Sargeson on the street-facing wall. The rest of the walls use 6mm RAB™ Board.

In addition to its acoustic benefits, RAB™ Board provides impact resistance and fire performance and meets the requirements of E2/AS1 and Specific Engineered Design in residential or commercial projects. It also creates a drainage plane and enhances the weather tightness performance of cladding and building facades, which helps new builds like the Sargeson Apartments to stand the test of time – a bit like Frank Sargeson's novels.





jameshardie.co.nz



For more information, warnings and warranties please see our website and review the relevant installation and technical guides. When installed and maintained correctly in accordance with James Hardie's literature, current at the time of installation, James Hardie products are fire resistant, rot resistant and resistant to moisture damage.
©2025 James Hardie New Zealand Limited 0800 808 868. ™ and ® denotes a trademark and registered mark owned by James Hardie Technology Ltd.