

Our differentiated products

Our goal is to develop lightweight and durable products that can perform in all climates, and for all parts of a building, from external walls, to trims, soffits and roofs to internal walls, floors and ceilings.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, we pioneered the development of cellulose fibre reinforced cement technology. Since then, we have found many new and innovative ways for fibre cement to replace traditional materials, expanding both the market for fibre cement products, and our share of the market.

Our products offer a range of advantages - from appearance to durability - over traditional building materials. They are easy to cut, nail and paint; require minimal maintenance; and can be used to create a variety of shapes and profiles, and different textured and coloured finishes.

This makes James Hardie products ideal for a wide range of residential and commercial applications, including:

- external wall cladding, in the form of planks, panels, shingles, facades and substrates;
- lining for eaves, soffits and breezeways;
- wall or floor substrate for ceramic tiles in wet areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundries;
- ceiling lining or floor underlay;
- roofing shakes;
- external and internal wall systems, including bracing and fire and acoustically-rated walls;
- decorative and structural columns;
- trim, fascia and other decorative applications;
- fencing; and
- underground drainage pipes.

WHERE OUR PRODUCTS ARE USED



EXTERIOR

- 1 TRIM
- 2 EAVES AND SOFFITS
- 3 ROOFING
- 4 EXTERNAL CLADDING
- 5 FASCIA
- 6 DECORATIVE AND STRUCTURAL COLUMNS
- 7 DECK UNDERLAY
- 8 PIPES

INTERIOR

- 9 CEILING LINING
- 10 INTERNAL WALLS
- 11 WET AREA LINING
- 12 FLOOR UNDERLAY

Our continued growth depends on our ability to keep delivering products that an increasing number of customers prefer to alternatives such as masonry, concrete, wood and wood composites and vinyl. Examples of the success of this approach include:

- our thicker, lighter Harditrim® exterior trim board with XLD™ Technology, which won a 2004 American Building Product Award from HOME Magazine;
- the new shorter, lighter and smoother HardiSenepa® fascia board launched in the Philippines in 2004, offering the market easier installation and finishing;
- the ColorPlus™ Collection of pre-painted siding and trim, which was recognised with a 2002 American Building Product Award from HOME Magazine;
- the thicker and lighter Linea® weatherboard which was launched in New Zealand in 2002 and which quickly exceeded sales targets;

- the thinner, lighter HardiFlex® lite ceiling sheet developed for the Philippines as a substitute for plywood. This product was named Top Building Board Brand of the Year at the Philippines Consumers Awards in December 2002;

- more dimensionally precise fibre cement sheets used to create the ExoTec™ Facade System for Australia's commercial construction industry;

- the new production technology and product formulation that is being used in the manufacture of our new fibre cement roofing shake for the large USA market.

We are constantly working to increase our product performance and lower the density of our fibre cement, to achieve the optimum balance between durability and ease of use. To that end, our product development will continue to focus on:

- formulation, to create products that are fit for use;

- design, to give our customers a choice of shapes and textures;
- finish, from sealer, to primer and topcoats;
- installation, through systems, components and tools; and
- durability.

Product leadership, in the form of differentiated products, sets us apart from our competition.

Differentiated products should enable us to continue to penetrate markets, sustain a price premium over competing products, reduce the impact of price competition, and enable James Hardie customers to recognise and value the brand.



Lighter, thicker, Linea® weatherboards, shown here on a home in New Zealand, are a good example of the way our fibre cement technology can create durable, attractive alternatives to conventional building products such as timber weatherboards.