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Thermal movement in claddings - Build 166 (2018)

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Abbreviation

Thermal movement in claddings - Build 166 (2018)

Valid from

01/06/2018

Information provider

BRANZ Limited

Information type

BUILD article

Format

Website, PDF

Description

After a great summer with lots of sun, now is a good time to consider the impact the sun and higher temperatures have on a building's cladding.

All materials move in response to temperature changes – some significantly more than others. The hotter or colder a material gets, the more movement there will be. Other factors that influence the amount of movement are:

- daily temperature range
- material – for example, steel expands and contracts more than timber but less than aluminium
- the amount of insulation behind the cladding – material surface temperatures will be higher where insulation is fitted tightly to the back of the cladding
- colour – darker-coloured materials get hotter so will expand more when heated
- orientation – north and west-facing materials get hotter and move more than those facing south
- potential shading

- cladding (panel) length – the longer the element, the greater the expansion and contraction that must be accommodated.

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