



Fire Performance

Vinyl cladding products have excellent performance characteristics in fire situations. They can be used in BAL 12.5 and 19 areas.

Bushfire Attack Levels (BAL) 12.5 & 19

Vinyl cladding products can be used in BAL 12.5 and BAL 19 areas. For more detailed information and full technical details please refer to **Standard AS 3959-2009 External Walls, Section 5.4.1 and 6.4.1.**

Under **AS 3959.2009** vinyl cladding (PVC) is permitted to be fitted on external walls over 6mm fibre cement sheet and 400mm above the ground or other surfaces, in Bushfire Attack Levels up to and including BAL-19.

It is the responsibility of the builder or specifier to be aware of any changes in this Standard should they occur.

Slow to ignite

The strong fire-safe characteristics of vinyl are recognised by the electrical industry through its approved use as a residential wiring insulator. Due to its chlorine base, vinyl cladding does not ignite quickly and is inherently flame retardant. All organic materials can ignite, however, the higher the temperature a material can reach before it flames, the safer it is. Vinyl cladding is composed mainly of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC will not ignite, even from another flame, until about 378°C. It will not self ignite until about 454°C. These temperatures are significantly higher than common framing timber – igniting from flame at 260°C and self igniting at 410°C.

Easy to extinguish

ASTM D2863 tests show that rigid PVC's high Limiting Oxygen Index means unusually high amounts of oxygen are required for it to burn. Rigid PVC (vinyl cladding) will not independently sustain combustion in air with normal oxygen levels, extinguishing more easily. Flame spread is slow and will self extinguish once the heat source is removed.

Surface flammability using a radiant heat source

Results of the *Standard Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source*, show PVC to be one of the materials with the lowest radiant panel index – meaning it does not release a large amount of energy when it burns and will not readily spread flames on its own. The low rate of heat release is a significant factor in reducing injury in fire situations.

Find out more about [vinyl cladding safety testing and performance](#).



Products

Cambridge Vinyl Cladding
Cedarline Vinyl Cladding
Duratuff Vinyl Cladding
Vertical Vinyl Cladding

Brands



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