



Fire Performance

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

Bushfire Attack Levels (BAL) 12.5 & 19

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

Under **AS 3959.2009** vinyl cladding, composed primarily of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) may 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 stay informed of any changes or amendments to this Standard.

Slow to ignite

Vinyl cladding's strong fire-resistant characteristics are well recognised, including by the electrical industry, where PVC is widely approved for use as residential wiring insulation. Due to its chlorine base, vinyl cladding is inherently flame retardant and does not ignite quickly.

While all organic materials can burn, the higher the temperature required for ignition, the safer the material. Vinyl cladding will not ignite from another flame until approximately 378°C. It will not self-ignite until about 454°C. These temperatures are significantly higher than for common framing timber which ignites from flame at around 260°C and self-ignites at approximately 410°C.

Easy to extinguish

Tests conducted under ASTM D2863 show that rigid PVC has a high Limiting Oxygen Index (LOI) meaning an unusually high amount of oxygen is required for it to burn. As a result, vinyl cladding will not independently sustain combustion in normal air conditions and will extinguish more easily once the heat source is removed. Flame spread is slow and the material is self-extinguishing when no longer exposed to fire.

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 have one of the lowest radiant panel indices. This means it releases minimal energy when burning and does not readily spread flames.

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



Products

Duratuff vinyl cladding
Duratech vinyl cladding
Cambridge vinyl cladding
Cedarline vinyl cladding
Vertical vinyl cladding

Brands



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