



THE
BIO FIBER SYSTEM™

TECHNICAL PUBLICATION SERIES

INSTALLATION FAQ

Your Installation Questions Answered

For Installers • General Contractors • Superintendents
Project Managers • Architects • Finish Crews



MATERIAL
RECEIVING



COMPONENT
HANDLING



PANEL & BLOCK
INSTALLATION



FASTENING &
ATTACHMENT



INSULATION
CONTINUITY



PENETRATIONS
& OPENINGS



FINISH
COMPATIBILITY



MOISTURE
CONDITIONS



TRADE
COORDINATION



QUALITY
CONTROL



Practical Answers. Field-Focused. Performance-Driven.



**BIO FIBER
INDUSTRIES™**

NATURAL MATERIALS USED WISELY™



Real-World Guidance for
High-Performance Wall Systems

- Save time in the field
- Protect system performance
- Build with confidence



Technical Publication Series

Installation FAQ

Your Installation Questions Answered

For Installers • General Contractors • Superintendents • Project Managers • Architects • Finish Crews

Bio Fiber Industries™

Natural Materials Used Wisely™

About This Guide

Even with a well-coordinated construction plan, installation questions come up in the field.

A panel arrives with a damaged corner.

A penetration lands somewhere different than expected.

A finish contractor wants to substitute a product.

A wall condition does not match the drawing.

The most important thing is not avoiding every field question. It is having a clear process for responding to them without compromising the performance of the wall assembly.

This guide addresses the most common questions that arise during Bio Fiber system installation, including:

- Material receiving and storage
- Component handling
- Panel and block installation
- Fastening and attachment
- Insulation continuity
- Penetrations and openings
- Finish compatibility
- Moisture conditions
- Trade coordination
- Quality-control expectations

- Field conditions that differ from approved plans

This document is intended as a quick-reference companion to the **Bio Fiber System Installation Guide** and **Trade Coordination Overview**.

Quick Field Rule

When an installation condition is unclear, use this sequence:

STOP

↓

VERIFY

↓

DOCUMENT

↓

COORDINATE

↓

PROCEED WITH AN APPROVED SOLUTION

Do not allow schedule pressure to turn an unanswered field question into a permanent building-envelope problem.

SECTION 1

Receiving, Handling & Storage

What should we inspect when Bio Fiber materials arrive on site?

Confirm:

- Product type
- Quantity
- Dimensions
- Packaging condition
- Visible damage
- Evidence of uncontrolled moisture exposure
- Correct components for the scheduled work area

Document significant discrepancies before materials are installed.

How should Bio Fiber components be stored?

Store materials:

- Above grade
- Away from standing water
- On stable supports
- Protected from direct weather exposure
- In an appropriate ventilated condition
- In manufacturer packaging until needed when practical

Protection should keep materials dry without creating an unnecessary moisture trap.

Can Bio Fiber components be stored outside?

Temporary exterior staging may be possible when appropriate weather protection is provided, but materials should not be left exposed to rain, standing water, or uncontrolled jobsite conditions.

Long-term storage should follow project-specific product guidance.

How should panels and blocks be handled?

Handle materials in a way that protects:

- Edges
- Corners
- Faces
- Connection points
- Finish surfaces

Avoid unnecessary dragging, dropping, impact, and loading that could damage the component.

What should we do if a component arrives damaged?

Separate the affected material from approved installation stock.

Document the condition with photographs and determine whether the damage is:

Cosmetic

or

Performance-affecting

Components with significant cracking, deformation, broken connection areas, major edge damage, or uncontrolled moisture exposure should be reviewed before installation.

SECTION 2

Before Installation

What needs to be complete before installation starts?

At minimum, verify:

- Current approved drawings are available.
 - Wall configuration is understood.
 - Structural conditions are complete where required.
 - Openings are dimensionally correct.
 - Required blocking is installed.
 - Known penetrations have been coordinated.
 - Materials and accessories are available.
 - Finish requirements are understood.
 - Inspection points have been established.
-

Who should attend the pre-installation meeting?

Recommended participants include:

- Superintendent
 - General contractor/project manager
 - Bio Fiber installer
 - Framing contractor
 - Mechanical representative
 - Electrical representative
 - Plumbing representative
 - Window/door installer where applicable
 - Finish contractor
 - Architect or envelope consultant when appropriate
 - Bio Fiber technical representative when appropriate
-

Do we need a mockup?

A representative first-installation area or project mockup can be valuable, particularly on larger commercial and multifamily projects.

It can confirm:

- Installation sequence
- Connections
- Transitions
- Penetrations
- Finish compatibility
- Quality expectations

The accepted condition can then become the project's installation standard.

SECTION 3

Panels & Blocks

Which direction should panels be installed?

Panel orientation should follow the approved project details and Bio Fiber system documentation.

Do not assume orientation based solely on appearance.

Can Bio Fiber panels be field-cut?

Field cutting may be required for project conditions.

Before making significant modifications, verify that the cut will not adversely affect:

- Required attachment
- Structural conditions
- Fire-related requirements
- Openings

- System continuity
- Finish support

Use appropriate cutting methods and project-specific instructions.

Can Bio Fiber blocks be cut?

Where permitted by the approved assembly, blocks may be modified to accommodate wall geometry and details.

Maintain clean, controlled cuts and avoid creating unnecessary gaps.

What if the panels or blocks do not fit the opening shown?

Do not force the material into the condition or make an unreviewed major modification.

First verify:

1. Field dimensions
2. Approved dimensions
3. Framing alignment
4. Product configuration

If the field condition differs from the approved design, document and coordinate the discrepancy.

How tight should joints be?

Components should generally be installed in accordance with the approved system detail, maintaining intended alignment and continuity.

Unplanned gaps should be investigated rather than automatically filled or concealed.

What if a wall starts going out of plumb?

Stop installation early.

Check:

- Base condition
- First course or first panel
- Framing
- Substrate
- Alignment
- Connections

Correct the underlying condition before continuing.

Small errors at the beginning of a wall can become large errors as installation progresses.

SECTION 4

Fasteners & Attachment

What fasteners should we use?

Use the fastener type specified in approved project documentation.

Fastener requirements may include:

- Type
 - Material
 - Diameter
 - Length
 - Head configuration
 - Corrosion resistance
 - Embedment
 - Edge distance
 - Field spacing
 - Perimeter spacing
-

Can we substitute a similar fastener if the specified product is unavailable?

Not without approval.

A fastener that appears similar may have different:

- Strength
- Corrosion resistance
- Pull-out capacity
- Head geometry
- Fire performance
- Compatibility

Coordinate substitutions before installation.

What if the fastener misses framing?

Do not leave the condition unresolved.

Determine:

- Why the attachment missed
- Whether framing is located correctly
- Whether the component is positioned correctly
- What approved corrective attachment is required

Do not simply add random fasteners until the panel feels secure.

Can fasteners be overdriven?

Avoid overdriving fasteners.

Overdriving can damage material surfaces or reduce the effectiveness of the intended connection.

Install to the requirements of the approved assembly.

SECTION 5

Insulation & Thermal Continuity

What is the most important insulation installation rule?

Maintain continuity.

The insulation should perform as a connected thermal layer rather than as isolated sections.

Pay special attention to:

- Corners
 - Floor lines
 - Window perimeters
 - Door perimeters
 - Structural connections
 - Roof transitions
 - Mechanical penetrations
-

What is a thermal bridge?

A thermal bridge is a location where heat can bypass or move more readily through the insulation layer.

Common examples include:

- Framing
 - Structural steel
 - Floor edges
 - Headers
 - Attachment systems
 - Uninsulated penetrations
-

What should we do if insulation does not fit tightly around a penetration?

Do not simply leave a void.

Coordinate the condition so that the thermal layer can be appropriately restored around the penetration according to the approved assembly.

Can insulation be compressed to make it fit?

Insulation should not be compressed beyond the limits of the specified product.

Excessive compression can change thermal performance and create inconsistent installation.

Why is this especially important on Washington projects?

Washington's energy-code framework places significant emphasis on building-envelope performance and thermal continuity.

If continuous insulation is part of the project's compliance strategy, the installed condition needs to reflect the assembly documented by the design team.

A specified CI layer that becomes discontinuous in the field may no longer perform as intended.

SECTION 6

Windows, Doors & Penetrations

When should window and door conditions be coordinated?

Before installation reaches the opening whenever possible.

Review:

- Rough opening dimensions
- Flashing

- Perimeter insulation
 - Attachment
 - Jamb conditions
 - Head conditions
 - Sills
 - Finish returns
-

Can mechanical trades cut penetrations after the wall is installed?

Planned penetrations are strongly preferred.

Where a later penetration is necessary, verify the proposed location and detail before cutting the assembly.

The modification may affect:

- Structure
 - Thermal continuity
 - Air management
 - Moisture control
 - Fire-rated conditions
 - Finish performance
-

Who is responsible for restoring the wall around a penetration?

Responsibility should be defined in the project's trade coordination or responsibility matrix.

The important point is that restoration of the wall assembly should not become an assumed or unassigned task.

What if a penetration is larger than expected?

Stop and review.

Do not automatically enlarge openings or fill oversized penetrations using improvised materials.

Determine whether a revised detail is required.

SECTION 7

Moisture & Weather Exposure

What happens if the Bio Fiber material gets wet?

The first priority is identifying the extent and source of the wetting.

Do not conceal affected material simply because the surface appears dry.

Evaluate:

- Duration of exposure
- Severity
- Surrounding conditions
- Whether moisture remains trapped
- Whether product condition has changed

Significant wetting should be reviewed before enclosure.

Can we install during rain?

Exterior installation under wet conditions should be managed with appropriate weather protection.

Avoid installing components into conditions where they will become trapped within an assembly before they can dry appropriately.

Should the wall be completely sealed against vapor?

Not necessarily.

Bio Fiber systems may be designed around vapor-permeable assembly principles.

Do not add an unapproved impermeable layer simply because it appears to provide additional moisture protection.

Doing so can alter the intended moisture behavior of the wall.

SECTION 8

Finish Compatibility

Can any plaster be used over the Bio Fiber system?

No.

Finish systems should be compatible with the approved Bio Fiber assembly.

Compatibility may involve:

- Bond
 - Vapor permeability
 - Movement
 - Reinforcement
 - Moisture behavior
 - Cure requirements
 - Surface preparation
-

Can we use standard drywall?

That depends on the approved wall configuration.

Where a conventional interior finish is permitted, it should be detailed accordingly.

Where vapor permeability or direct finish integration is part of the system strategy, substitution may change the assembly.

Can we apply a waterproof paint or coating over the finished wall?

Potentially only if it is consistent with the approved assembly.

An impermeable coating can change vapor movement and moisture behavior.

Finish substitutions should be reviewed before application.

What if the finish contractor wants to substitute another product?

Do not approve a field substitution based only on appearance, availability, or price.

Confirm compatibility with:

- Substrate
 - Moisture strategy
 - Fire requirements
 - Finish thickness
 - Reinforcement
 - Required performance
-

What should be checked before finish begins?

Confirm:

- Substrate is clean.
 - Wall is sufficiently dry.
 - Penetrations are complete.
 - Joints are addressed.
 - Reinforcement is installed where required.
 - Correct finish materials are present.
 - Required inspections are complete.
-

SECTION 9

Trade Coordination

What is the biggest coordination risk?

Unplanned work occurring after an assembly is considered complete.

Examples include:

- New penetrations
- Relocated electrical boxes
- Added equipment
- Revised windows
- Structural changes
- Finish substitutions

Changes should be communicated before affected work proceeds.

Should MEP rough-in happen before or after Bio Fiber installation?

The exact sequence depends on the approved wall system and project.

The important requirement is that MEP locations are coordinated before they create uncontrolled modifications to the installed assembly.

What should happen during the daily superintendent huddle?

For active wall areas, confirm:

- Where Bio Fiber installation is occurring
- Which trades need access
- Which conditions will become concealed
- Which RFIs remain open

- Whether inspections are scheduled
 - Whether new penetrations are required
-

SECTION 10

When Field Conditions Don't Match the Plan

What should we do if the existing building differs from the drawings?

This is common in renovation and retrofit work.

Use the following process:

1. STOP

Do not build through the discrepancy.

2. VERIFY

Confirm the actual condition and relevant drawing.

3. DOCUMENT

Take photographs and dimensions.

4. COMMUNICATE

Notify the responsible project team.

5. RESOLVE

Obtain an approved response.

6. PROCEED

Continue only when the resolution is understood.

What if resolving the condition will delay the schedule?

Document the issue and escalate it through the project's established decision-making process.

An undocumented field modification can create larger schedule, performance, and warranty problems later.

Can the superintendent approve a field change?

Authority depends on the project's contractual and design responsibility structure.

Changes affecting structural performance, code compliance, fire-rated construction, envelope performance, or approved design details should be reviewed by the appropriate responsible professional.

What if we think we have a better way to install the condition?

Raise the proposed alternative before implementing it.

Field experience is valuable, but changes should be evaluated for their impact on the complete wall system.

SECTION 11

Inspection & Quality Control

When should installation be inspected?

Recommended checkpoints include:

Material Receipt



Substrate Readiness



Initial Installation



Connections



Openings & Penetrations



Thermal Continuity



Pre-Concealment



Pre-Finish



Final Installation

Why inspect the first installation area?

The initial completed area establishes:

- Workmanship expectations
- Installation sequence
- Detail interpretation
- Quality benchmark

Correcting a process after one wall section is considerably easier than correcting it after an entire floor.

Should concealed work be photographed?

Yes.

Recommended photography includes:

- Connections
- Corners
- Insulation
- Openings
- Penetrations
- Flashing
- Transitions
- Pre-finish conditions

Organize images by building area and date.

What conditions should stop installation?

Examples include:

- Significant uncontrolled moisture
 - Incorrect framing
 - Missing required attachment
 - Uncoordinated penetration
 - Unknown product substitution
 - Incorrect opening dimensions
 - Conflicting details
 - Damaged materials that may affect performance
-

SECTION 12

Common "Can We Just...?" Questions

Can we just fill the gap?

First determine why the gap exists.

Can we just add another screw?

First determine whether the approved attachment requirement has been satisfied.

Can we just cut around the pipe?

First verify the required penetration detail.

Can we just cover it with plaster?

Finish should not be used to hide an unresolved installation condition.

Can we just use the product already on site?

Only after compatibility and approval are confirmed.

Can we just keep going and fix it later?

If the condition will become concealed, continuing may make the eventual correction significantly more difficult.

FIELD RULE

When You Hear "Can We Just...?"

That is often the moment to verify the detail.

SECTION 13

Who Should I Contact?

Ask the Superintendent When:

The issue involves:

- Sequencing
 - Trade access
 - Scheduling
 - Responsibility
 - Inspection timing
-

Ask the Architect / Design Team When:

The issue affects:

- Approved assembly design
 - Openings
 - Building-envelope details
 - Material substitutions
 - Significant field changes
-

Ask the Structural Engineer When:

The issue affects:

- Load-bearing elements
 - Structural connections
 - Framing
 - Attachment requirements
 - Structural modifications
-

Ask the Envelope Consultant When:

The issue affects:

- Air management
 - Flashing
 - Moisture control
 - Thermal continuity
 - Window interfaces
-

Ask Bio Fiber Industries When:

The issue involves:

- Bio Fiber product condition
 - System installation
 - Component compatibility
 - Approved materials
 - Finish compatibility
 - Assembly transitions
 - Product-specific field questions
-

SECTION 14

Installer's Quick Reference

BEFORE INSTALLING

Verify

- Drawings
- Materials
- Substrate
- Dimensions
- Openings
- Penetrations

WHILE INSTALLING

Protect

- Alignment
- Connections
- Thermal continuity
- Corners
- Openings
- Material condition

BEFORE COVERING

Inspect

- Attachments
- Insulation
- Penetrations
- Transitions
- Moisture conditions

IF SOMETHING CHANGES

Stop → Document → Coordinate → Resolve

Five Installation Rules Worth Remembering

1. The wall performs as a system.

A change to one component can affect another.

2. Interfaces require the most attention.

Openings, corners, penetrations, and transitions are critical.

3. Protect thermal continuity.

Especially where continuous insulation is part of the project's energy-code strategy.

4. Never conceal an unresolved condition.

Inspect and document first.

5. When field conditions differ, verify before modifying.

The fastest field solution is not always the best building solution.

Related Bio Fiber Resources

Bio Fiber System Installation Guide

Complete step-by-step guidance covering material handling, installation, sequencing, insulation, finishes, and quality control.

Trade Coordination Overview

Quick-reference guidance for superintendents and project managers coordinating framing, MEP, inspection, and finish crews.

Energy Code Compliance Guide

Guidance related to energy-code pathways, continuous insulation, thermal continuity, and assembly documentation.

Construction System Overview

An introduction to the complete Bio Fiber Construction System and its applications.

Still Have an Installation Question?

Bio Fiber Industries supports project teams throughout preconstruction, installation, and closeout.

Technical support may include:

- Product questions
- Installation review
- Assembly guidance
- Field-condition review
- Finish compatibility
- Material handling
- Trade coordination
- Project-specific documentation

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Technical Disclaimer

This Installation FAQ provides general field guidance and is intended to supplement, not replace, approved construction documents, engineering requirements, specifications, project-specific Bio Fiber documentation, manufacturer instructions, applicable building codes, or requirements of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

Project conditions vary. Fasteners, connections, dimensions, tolerances, structural requirements, fire-rated construction, finish systems, moisture details, flashing, and other performance-critical conditions should be confirmed using the approved project documentation.

When field conditions conflict with this guide or differ from approved project documents, stop at the affected condition and obtain appropriate project-specific direction before proceeding.

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