

## A Complete Guide to External Home Cladding and Rendered Cladding

When it comes to building or renovating a house, the outside appearance is just as important as what's inside. The external finish of your home not only affects how it looks but also plays a big role in protecting it from the elements. That's where **external home cladding** and **rendered cladding** come in.

These two cladding options are some of the most popular choices among homeowners and builders today. Whether you're after a sleek modern look or a traditional finish, both offer unique benefits in terms of design, durability, and insulation.

In this blog, we will explain what [external home cladding](#) and rendered cladding are, explore their advantages and disadvantages, and help you decide which option might be best for your project.

### What is External Home Cladding?

**External home cladding** refers to materials that are applied to the outside of a building to protect it from weather conditions and improve its appearance. Cladding acts as a protective skin, shielding your walls from wind, rain, heat, and cold. At the same time, it adds style and character to your home.

There are many types of cladding materials available, including timber, vinyl, metal, fibre cement, and composite panels. Each material has its own look, feel, and maintenance needs.

### Common Types of External Cladding

#### 1. Timber Cladding

Natural and warm in appearance, timber cladding is popular for its eco-friendly appeal. It needs regular maintenance to prevent weather damage.

#### 2. Vinyl Cladding

Lightweight and low maintenance, vinyl cladding is cost-effective and available in many colors and finishes.

#### 3. Fibre Cement Cladding

Made from a mix of cement, sand, and cellulose fibres, this type is strong, fire-resistant, and suitable for modern designs.

#### 4. Metal Cladding

Steel or aluminium cladding gives a sleek, industrial look and offers great durability and fire resistance.

#### 5. Composite Cladding

A blend of wood fibres and plastic, composite cladding combines the appearance of timber with low maintenance benefits.

## What is Rendered Cladding?

**Rendered cladding** is a specific type of external finish where a layer of cement, acrylic, or polymer render is applied over a surface—often a cladding board or brickwork. The goal is to create a smooth or textured surface that can be painted in any color.

Render has been used for centuries, but modern techniques have made it more versatile and long-lasting. You'll often see rendered homes in both suburban and urban areas, thanks to its clean, minimalist look.

There are two main types of render:

- **Traditional Cement Render**  
Made from sand, cement, and sometimes lime. It is strong and affordable but can crack over time if not applied correctly.
- **Acrylic or Polymer Render**  
More flexible than cement, it resists cracking and is quicker to apply. It often includes fibers and is available in pre-colored finishes.

## Benefits of External Home Cladding

Choosing the right external cladding can improve more than just your home's appearance. Here are the main benefits:

### 1. Protection from Weather

Cladding acts as a shield against rain, wind, UV rays, and temperature changes. This helps preserve the structure of your house over time.

### 2. Improved Insulation

Many cladding systems come with built-in insulation or can be combined with external insulation, helping to keep your home cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

### 3. Curb Appeal

The right cladding can greatly enhance the appearance of your home, making it more attractive and increasing its resale value.

### 4. Low Maintenance Options

Materials like vinyl, fibre cement, and composite cladding are designed to be long-lasting and easy to care for.

### 5. Sustainability

Eco-friendly options such as sustainably-sourced timber or recycled composite boards are available for those wanting a greener home.

## Benefits of Rendered Cladding

Rendered cladding is chosen for its seamless appearance and ability to give homes a modern or classic style. Here's why homeowners love it:

### 1. Smooth Finish

Render provides a clean, continuous look with no visible joins. This is ideal for minimalist, modern architecture.

### 2. Wide Range of Colors

Render can be painted in any shade or applied with a pre-mixed color. You can easily refresh your home's look over time.

### 3. Flexible Design Options

You can choose from a smooth, rough, or textured finish, depending on the style you're aiming for.

### 4. Weather Resistance

Modern renders are designed to resist rain, UV rays, and other elements, offering lasting protection.

### 5. Fire Resistance

Cement-based and acrylic renders provide an additional layer of fire protection to your home.

## Comparing External Cladding and Rendered Cladding

Feature	External Cladding	Rendered Cladding
Appearance	Variety of styles and textures	Smooth and seamless finish
Maintenance	Depends on material (low to moderate)	Requires repainting every few years
Installation Time	Moderate to fast	Slightly longer for multi-layer systems
Durability	High with the right materials	High with modern render systems

Feature	External Cladding	Rendered Cladding
Cost	Varies depending on material	Moderate to high depending on type
Insulation	Some systems offer built-in insulation	Can be applied over insulation panels

### Which Option is Best for Your Home?

Choosing between external home cladding and rendered cladding depends on several factors, including your budget, style preferences, climate, and long-term maintenance expectations.

- **Choose External Cladding If:**  
You want a textured or layered look with options like timber or composite panels. It's ideal if you want a material that stands out or adds natural warmth to the home.
- **Choose Rendered Cladding If:**  
You prefer a smooth, minimalist look with customizable colors. It works well for modern homes or for giving older brickwork a clean update.

Some homeowners even combine both — using [rendered cladding](#) on one part of the home and external cladding on another for contrast and design interest.

### Final Thoughts

Whether you're building from scratch or renovating an existing property, both **external home cladding** and **rendered cladding** can significantly improve your home's appearance, protection, and value. They serve as more than just decorative finishes — they are functional systems that help your home stand up to the elements and offer better energy performance.

Take the time to research your options, consider your home's architecture, and consult with professionals to ensure proper installation. With the right choice, you can enjoy a beautiful and durable exterior for years to come.