Architectural Standards for Walden Association



UPDATED 2026

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WHO WE ARE:

Walden is a unique community nestled in the Ohio countryside. This rustic-style residential enclave in natural surroundings offers a return to nature, similar to Henry David Thoreau’s retreat to Walden Pond to reflect on the balance between nature and life: “it is the marriage of the soul with nature that makes the intellect fruitful, that gives birth to imagination.”

MISSION

Our homes are designed around two great Walden values: love of nature and love of architecture.

Our intent is to create communities that allow our residents to live in beautiful structures that are efficient and easy to live in; structures that not only coexist peacefully with nature but allow their residents to feel nature within their homes.

Walden homes are situated in the landscape in a way that allows the best natural views, maximum privacy and a sensitive melding with the natural topography.

Our homes are efficient, functional spaces that are environmentally sound as well as architecturally beautiful. Our designs are spacious and open, and we've included large windows that allow in lots of light as well as dramatic, scenic views of the Walden landscape.

Using building materials from the region, we've made our communities contextually appropriate, too.

At Walden, we value efficient and aesthetic use of land, modest beauty in design, gracious style, and architecture that allows residents the easy contemplation of nature.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Walden is a planned, deed-restricted development of condominiums and single-family homes. There are 18 different associations, each of which maintains its own area. There is also a single-family homeowners' area, in which each owner maintains their own property with adherence to the Master Association Declarations and Bylaws.

- The Walden Association is composed of volunteers from the community who are elected by each association to represent them and to manage the affairs of the Walden Association. It is an umbrella organization to which all residents of Walden belong. The purpose of the Association is to maintain, enhance and protect the common areas and interests of the community.

WALDEN ASSOCIATION

CONDO ASSOCIATIONS	ARBORETUM	BENT CREEK	BRIARWOOD I	BRIARWOOD II	CHANDLERS COVE
CLARIDGES	CONCORD DOWNS	DEER ISLAND	FAIRINGTON	GARDENS	HIGH POINT
LANDINGS	LANDS END	MEADOWS	RAVINES	RAVINES WEST	RUSSET WOODS
		WILLOWS	SINGLE FAMILY HOMES (89)		

SUSTAINABLE STANDARDS

- When we began this development in 1970, it was designed to minimize our environmental impact. At that time, a raging energy crisis had forced Americans to reevaluate how they lived, and Walden intentionally developed a more sustainable community in response.

- Designed to incorporate livability, privacy and grassroots luxury, our homes feature low-maintenance natural siding, energy-efficient windows, added insulation, attic ventilation, multiple heating and cooling zones, fireplaces and sustainable landscaping.

- In addition to our private residences, the entire 1,000-acre Walden community embodies our commitment to responsible environmental practices. Our roads were designed around the natural contours to minimize clearing, grading and stream crossings. A network of walking paths was also incorporated to encourage exercise and environmental awareness, and hundreds of acres of open space have been permanently preserved. Club Walden and Inn Walden embrace our sustainable philosophy not only in their practices but also in daily operations.

ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS

- The Architectural Committee was established by the Master Warranty Deed and Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions executed by the Walden Company, Ltd., on January 8, 1981, for the residential development known as Walden. In addition to administering the restrictions set forth in Article VIII of said Declaration, the Committee is specifically charged with the development of policies regarding architectural styles and details, materials of construction, and site arrangement of structures and parking areas. These Architectural Standards, which have been accepted by the Board of Trustees of the Walden Association, are intended to clarify and define the “Walden” look and ambiance, as visualized by Mr. Barenholtz and his architects when Walden was created and originally developed.

ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS

(CONTINUED)

- These standards were last effective in February 2023 and are now being revisited in 2026 to reaffirm the mission of the community.

- The goal in revisiting the standards is to give clear, concise and helpful guidance to homeowners and condominium associations on the appropriate selection of materials as it relates to renovation changes on newly built projects. Every design standard outlined was critically examined to pay tribute to the Walden mission of love of nature and architecture while being sensitive to selecting materials that blend rather than contrast with the natural beauty of Walden's existing architectural vernacular and natural rolling topography, pastoral and woodland settings found throughout the community.
- ***NO EXISTING DETAIL ON ANY HOUSE OR UNIT ALREADY EXISTING IN WALDEN SHALL CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT UPON WHICH TO BASE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OR CHANGES.**

WALDEN STANDARDS: BUILDING COLOR

BUILDING + STRUCTURE COLOR

The concept for condo + house color emanates from a harmonious blending with nature. Here, the built environment, portrayed in a natural palette of paint colors, melds with the hues of tree trunks and topography. Buildings become an extension of the existing landscape with overriding goals of a monochromatic relationship.

NOTE: Due to varying printer settings, colors shown may not be a true color representation. The Sherwin-Williams ID# takes precedence when choosing your colors.



WALDEN STANDARDS: DOOR COLOR

DOOR COLOR

The accent concept for door color encourages individuality and identification within the Walden community. These carefully selected colors coordinate with the neutral-toned palette of the building structure and represent a range of greens, reds, yellow-oranges, blues and browns. Each of these colors is found in nature, whether through the changing fall leaves, tree bark, vegetation or reflections of the sun and sky in streams and lakes.

Natural wood doors may be used as well.

NOTE: Due to varying settings, colors shown may not be a true color representation. The Sherwin-Williams ID# takes precedence when choosing your colors.

BLUES

- **Poolhouse** SW 7623
- **Bunglehouse Blue** SW 0048
- **Seaworthy** SW 7620

GREENS

- **Ruskin Room Green** SW 0042
- **Edamame** SW 7729
- **Basil** SW 6194

YELLOWS / ORANGES

- **Honey Bees** SW 9018
- **Brittlebush** SW 6684
- **Husky Orange** SW 6636
- **Jalapeño** SW 6629

REDS

- **Rave Red** SW 6608
- **Fired Brick** SW 6335
- **Rookwood Red** SW 2802

WALDEN STANDARDS: DOOR COLOR

DOOR COLOR

Brown tones complete the accent palette, echoing the tree bark and fall leaves found in nature. All colors shown are suitable for interior and exterior use.

Natural wood doors may be used as well.

BROWNS

Brandywine
SW 7710

Rookwood Amber
SW 2817

Kaffee
SW 6104

BLACKS

Tricorn Black
SW 6258

NOTE: Due to varying settings, colors shown may not be a true color representation. The Sherwin-Williams ID# takes precedence when choosing your colors.

WALDEN STANDARDS: EXTERIOR LIGHTING

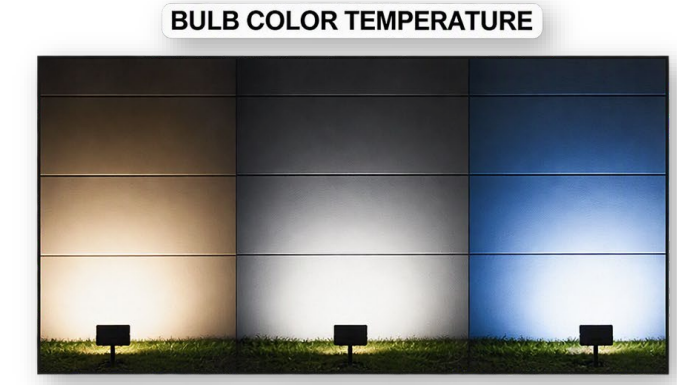
Lighting fixtures attached to structures must be in keeping with the Modern architectural aesthetic, in black, brown or oil-rubbed bronze. Fixtures should be in keeping with the Mid-Century Modern aesthetic as reflected in the examples shown. Fixture colors: black or bronze.



WALDEN STANDARDS: EXTERIOR LIGHTING



WALDEN STANDARDS: EXTERIOR LIGHTING



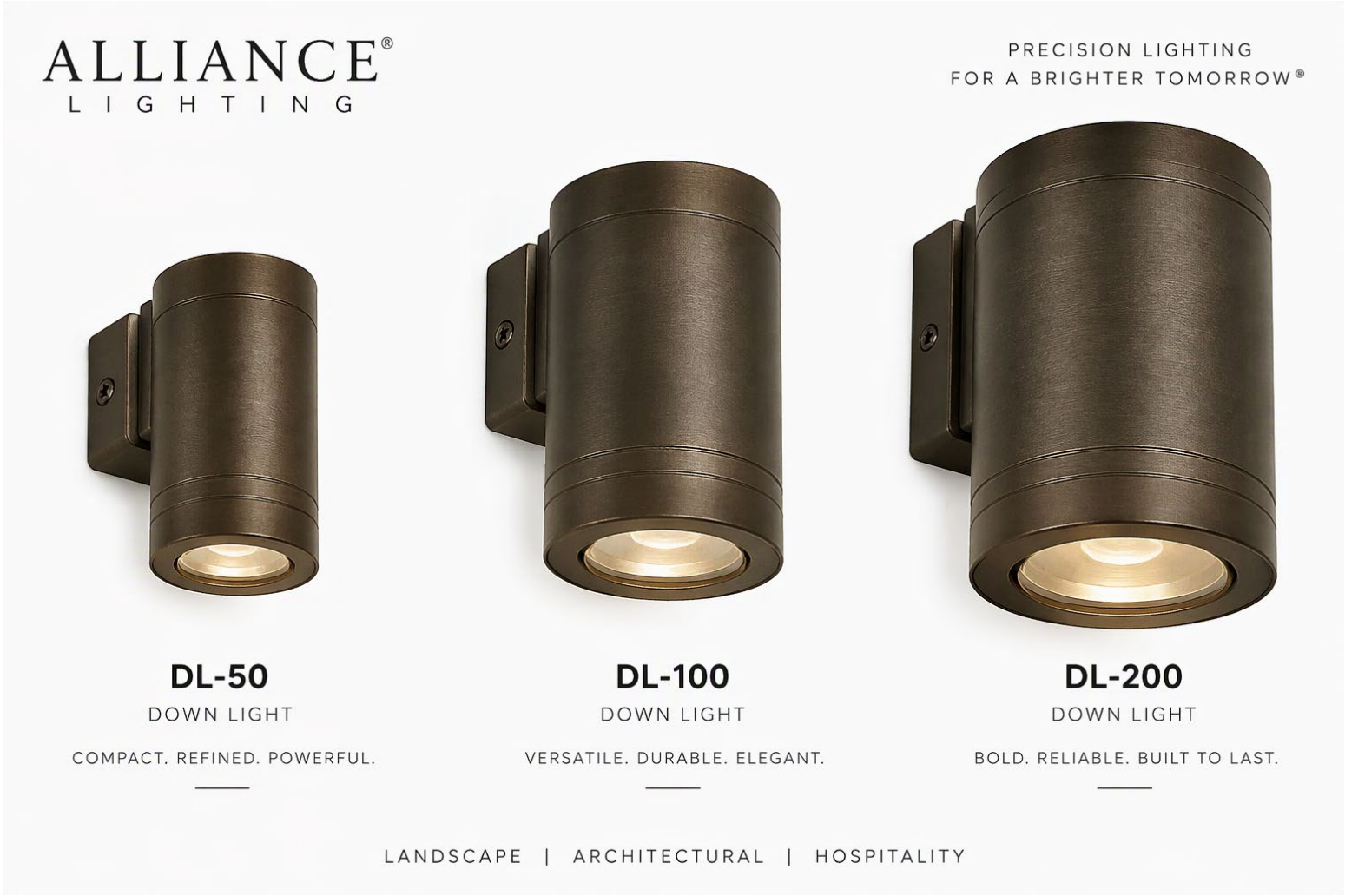
The Walden preferred Kelvin temperature for exterior residential lighting is 2700K to 3100K.

WALDEN STANDARDS: LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

The overall goal of the landscape lighting is to create a “moonlight” effect that provides a subtle wash of light rather than strong light patterns. All landscape fixtures should be tucked within the landscape so as not to draw attention. It is highly recommended to avoid landscape path lighting unless no other fixture can be used to properly light a pathway or stair system.

Options include bullet lights, down lights, flood lights, ground lights and area lights. The following are examples of two different lighting manufacturers with the style, finish, and color that are recommended to blend with the landscape.

WALDEN STANDARDS LANDSCAPE LIGHTING



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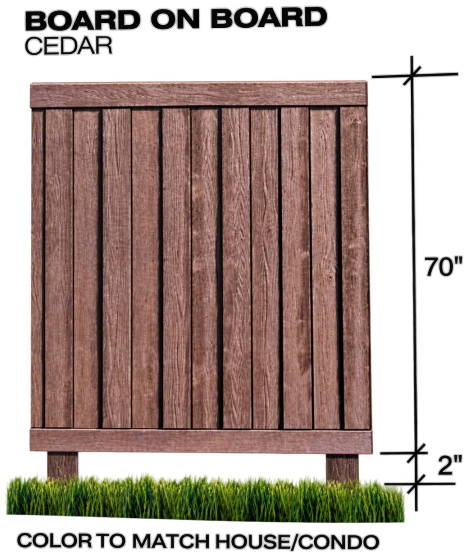


WALDEN STANDARDS LANDSCAPE LIGHTING



WALDEN ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS

PRIVACY FENCES



- Privacy fencing should be rough-sawn cedar, board on board, using 1x8s, spaced with gaps of ¾ to 1”, staggered on both sides of 2x4 stringers attached to 4x4 treated posts, with a 2x6 flat board top, with a maximum height of 72” above grade. Fences must be stained to match the color of the adjacent siding.

- Fences that are closer to roads and unattached to structures can use pressure-treated lumber, stained accordingly to match.

CEDAR SIDING AND HARDIE BOARD

Hardie Board has been approved on a limited basis in single-family homes. The type, style and color will be limited to only Sierra 8 James Hardie Board, which mimics cedar siding used on all structures in Walden. Hardie Board must be used on the entirety of the exterior of a home and cannot be mixed with cedar or any other siding material.

A condominium board may need to amend its declarations in order to use Hardie Board and have a majority of owners vote to use this material. Careful consideration by condominium legal counsel is required.

WALDEN STANDARDS DECK

The goal of all deck structures and wood balconies is to have all surfaces blend as cohesively as possible with the adjoining unit, in both color and style. All vertical and horizontal members must be made of wood or wood composite as outlined below:

1. All decks and stairways must be constructed within the Limited Common Area of the unit.

2. It is the requirement and responsibility of the owner to obtain building permits or, in the case of a subcontractor, the owner must verify the existence of a permit. All new decks and balconies require permits and must meet the current building codes of the City of Aurora.

WALDEN STANDARDS

DECKS (CON’T)

3. The City of Aurora has detailed requirements for deck design and construction, and owners and contractors are encouraged to consult with the Aurora Building Department before submitting a design and application for approval.

4. All support systems (i.e., posts, beams, joists) should be constructed of pressure-treated lumber.

5. Exterior deck floors must be constructed of pressure-treated lumber, composite wood, smooth cedar, smooth redwood, or Brazilian hardwood, stained to match/blend with the adjacent house or unit, or in harmony with the natural surroundings.

WALDEN STANDARDS

DECKS (CON’T)

6. Deck railings must be constructed of pressure-treated lumber, cedar, redwood, or ipe and allowed to weather to a natural gray patina or stained to match adjacent unit/home. Composite material may be used for the railings in addition to natural materials.

7. Railing may be constructed of pressure-treated cedar, redwood, ipe or metal and allowed to weather to a natural gray patina to match adjacent unit/home. Composite material may be allowed along with horizontal cable systems, but color must blend with the color of the adjacent unit. Deck and balcony railings exist in Walden with either horizontal rails or vertical balusters. The current building code, however, permits only vertical balusters with a maximum of 3” between, and a minimum vertical height of 36”. Mesh or screening should not be added to the vertical surfaces as that detracts from the open concept.

WALDEN STANDARDS

DECKS (CON’T)



WALDEN STANDARDS

DECK FLOORING AND STEPS

PRESSURE-TREATED WOOD

(Unweathered)

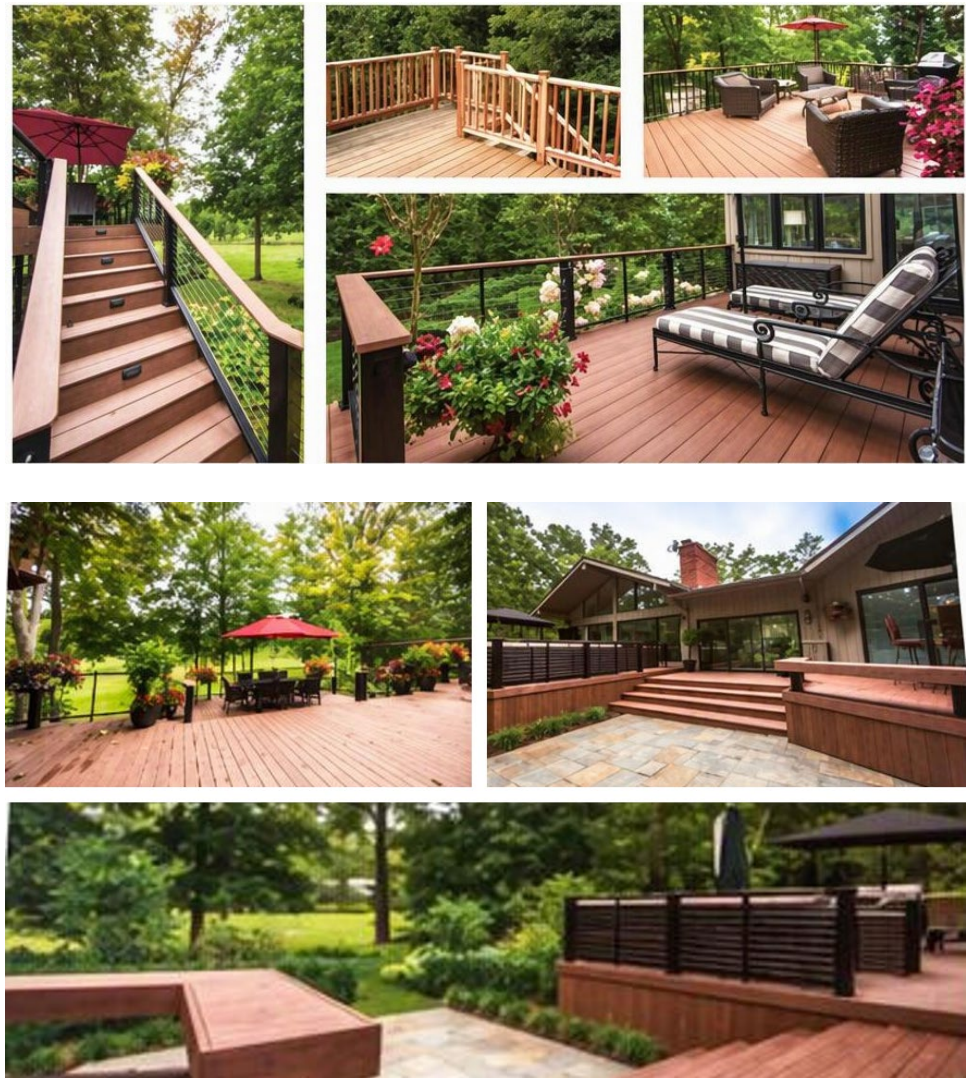




WALDEN STANDARDS

DECKS (CON’T)

DECK RAILING SYSTEMS



WALDEN STANDARDS

DOCKS

- All waterways or waterfront structures require the approval of the Architectural Committee and the developer, the Walden Company, and, if on condominium property, approval of the appropriate condominium association.
- All waterways (creeks, lakes and retention ponds) in Walden are private property. Walden waterways are designated as “no activity,” meaning no fishing, boating or swimming is permitted.
- **No new docks are permitted to be constructed into or upon Lake Walden per the landowner, the Walden Company.**

WALDEN STANDARDS DOCKS (CON'T)

Existing structures must meet the following specifications:

1. Existing dock footers may be repaired or replaced using appropriate material. Deck material may be pressure-treated lumber or composite.
2. The deck may not exceed its original footprint or eighty-one (81) square feet in surface area, nor shall any one dimension exceed nine (9) feet.
3. No pier or dock can extend more than one and one-half (1-1/2) feet above the normal or average water level of Lake Walden or adjacent bodies of water on which the structure is located.
4. Existing dock shall be built in such a way as to minimize any detraction from the natural shoreline or the conditions of the area in which said dock or pier is being constructed.

WALDEN STANDARDS

RETAINING WALLS

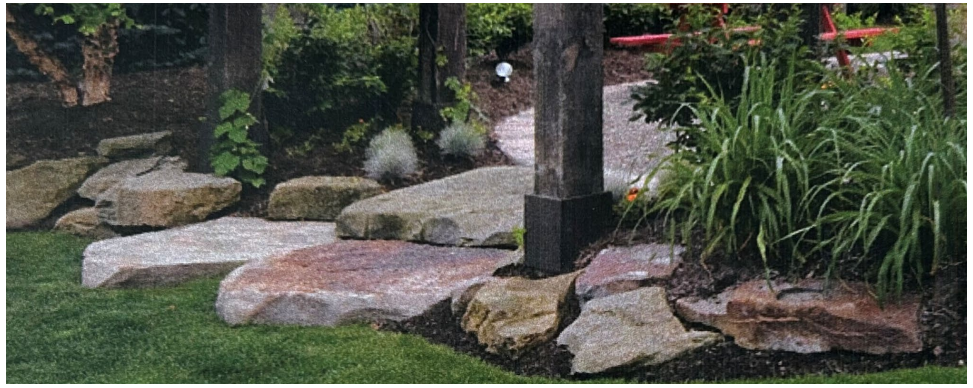




- Options for new retaining walls include pressure-treated timber, rock outcroppings, sandstone, ledge-rock, moss rock, wet-laid sandstone or masonry block. The intention is for the retaining elements to meld with the topography and existing landscape. See additional photos.

WALDEN STANDARDS

RETAINING WALLS (CON'T)





WALDEN STANDARDS

RETAINING WALLS (CON'T)





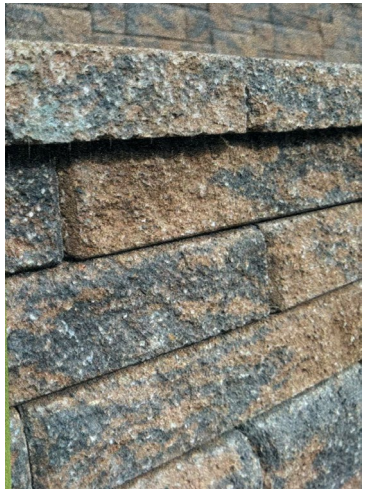
WALDEN STANDARDS

RETAINING WALLS (CON'T)









WALDEN STANDARDS

RETAINING WALLS (CON’T)





WALDEN STANDARDS

PATIOS & WALKWAYS

- Patios and walkways must be within the unit's limited common area. Walkways should be no greater than 4' wide. Acceptable materials are dry-laid concrete pavers, stamped and colored concrete (grays, tans, neutrals), brick, flagstone, bluestone, and compacted pea gravel.







WALDEN STANDARDS

PATIOS & WALKWAYS (CON’T)





WALDEN STANDARDS

DOORS

- The material, style and color of all Walden doors (front doors, patio doors, storm/screen doors, garage doors, and pedestrian garage doors) should be in keeping with the following examples:

Front Entrance Doors:

- Front entrance doors may be any type shown below. Transom and sidelight windows are permitted and should be of fixed glass and of the geometry in the following images. Circular, arched or other geometric shapes are not permitted for transom and sidelights. Oval-shaped windows are not permitted.





WALDEN STANDARDS

DOORS (CON’T)

Patio Doors:

- Patio doors may be either a sliding glass door or a French door.
- A. Sliding glass doors – full glass light, with no divisions or intermediate mullions allowable.
- B. French doors (in-swing or out-swing) – full glass light, with no divisions or intermediate mullions allowable.
- Painting factory doors and windows may affect warranties. Check with your supplier before ordering.



WALDEN STANDARDS

DOORS (CON’T)

Storm and Screen Doors

- Storm and screen doors shall be selected or designed to be inconspicuous and to blend unobtrusively with the adjacent wall surface. Full light frames are preferred, but two light frames are allowed. Ornamental patterns or designs are not permitted. Frame color shall match the color of the home/condo.

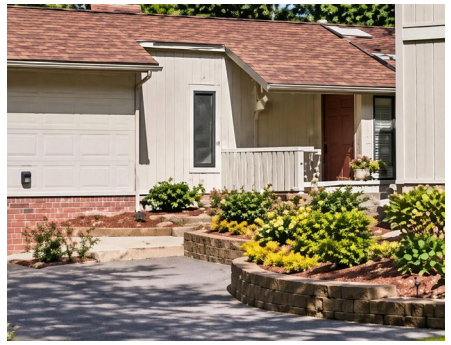


WALDEN STANDARDS

DOORS (CON’T)

Garage Doors and Overhead Doors

- Garage and overhead doors should be solid, flush-mount, smooth (slight texture permitted), four-panel doors, which are the only type allowable. Color of door and frame must match that of the adjacent wood siding.





WALDEN STANDARDS

DOORS (CON’T)

Pedestrian Access Doors at Garage

- Pedestrian access doors should be solid, flush-surface metal or solid wood doors, which are the only type allowable. Color of door and frame must match that of the adjacent wood siding.



WALDEN STANDARDS

WINDOWS

Fixed Window Types

- Allowable window geometry shall be with an angled head profile where the angle at the window head is parallel to the adjacent roof slopes, or where the window openings are rectangular or square, and the window head is horizontal and parallel to the floor plane.
- Circular, arched, diamond, triangular or other fixed window shapes are not permitted.



WALDEN STANDARDS

WINDOWS (CON’T)

Operating Window Types

- Operating window types are casement, sliding, awning, or hopper design. **Double-hung windows and jalousie (louver-type) windows are not permitted.**
- Allowable window geometry shall be rectangular or square with the window head to be horizontal to the floor plane. Circular, arched or other geometric shapes are not permitted.
- Painting trim of factory made windows may affect warranties. Check with your supplier before ordering.



WALDEN STANDARDS

DOOR FRAME AND WINDOW FRAME

Door Frame and Window Frame:

- Frames may be wood, metal or vinyl-clad. All doors are to have a paint or coating finish, field or factory applied. All wood frame colors for doors and windows are to match the adjacent wood siding color per the Sherwin-Williams Neutral Palette found earlier in the architectural standards. These tones are muted and flat, as are the natural colors found in nature.
- If frames are metal, the color can be either dark brown/bronze or paint finished to match adjacent wood siding.
- Painting of door frame may affect warranties. Check with supplier before ordering.



WALDEN STANDARDS ROOFING SHINGLES

- Only those products reviewed and approved by the Walden Architectural Committee will be permitted for use as a substitute shingle.

- It shall be noted that the continued use of natural cedar shake shingles remains an acceptable roofing material for re-roofing repairs. It will be the option of various condominium associations or resident owners to decide whether they wish to use an approved substitute roof shingle, no less than Class 3, or to use the natural cedar shingle when re-roofing is required.

WALDEN STANDARDS
ROOFING SHINGLES

- Roofing materials such as cedar shake shingles, composite cedar shake shingles, asphalt shingles or fiberglass shingles are all acceptable for roofing as long as they match the entirety of the home or condominium (including duplex and triplex) and they are the minimum Class 3 or Class 4 shingle.

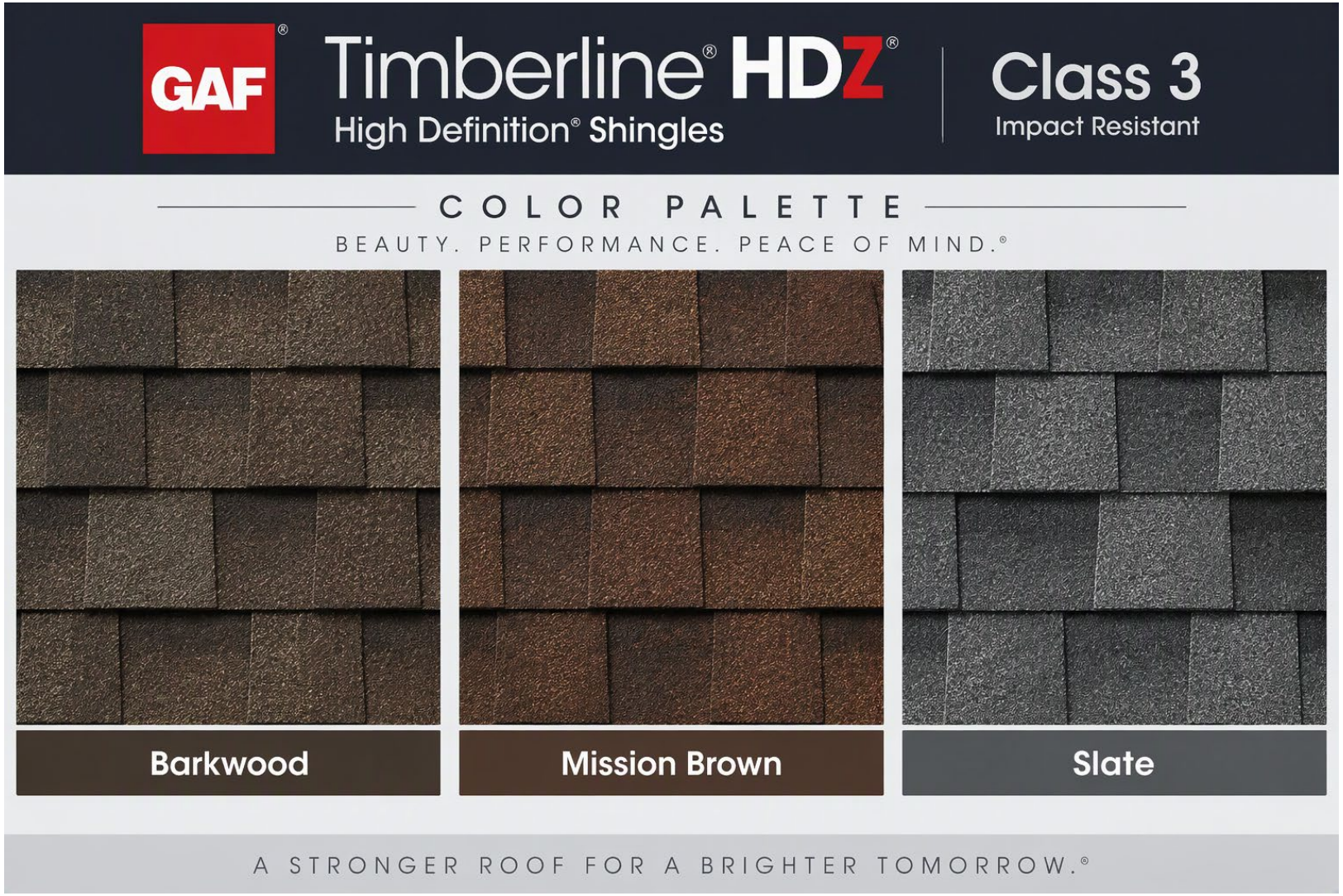




WALDEN STANDARDS ROOFING SHINGLES

WALDEN STANDARDS

ROOFS



WALDEN STANDARDS

ROOFS



WALDEN STANDARDS

ROOFS





WALDEN STANDARDS ROOFS