

# Wood is good siding if done right

Wood composite siding and other wood-based siding materials have been used extensively for residential construction throughout the United States for decades. Wood products represent affordable cladding material that has allowed the price of houses to be within reach of many market segments. When these products are properly installed and finished by a qualified builder or installer, they receive normal homeowner maintenance, they will perform as designed and look great for many years.

Many reported problems concerning wood-based siding are not caused by the product itself, but can be traced to Seven Common Errors of Wood-Based Siding Application. By avoiding these pitfalls, builders and installers can prevent costly call backs, homeowner complaints and wasted time.

Builders and siding installers can avoid the Seven Common Errors of Wood-Based Siding Application by following manufacturer's installation guidelines and paying special attention to these areas:

- **Flashing** — Properly installing simple metal flashing over windows, doors and other horizontal surfaces prevents water from penetrating the exterior wall of the house.
- **Caulking** — All gaps around doors, windows and other wall openings should be filled with a long-life caulk as a barrier against water entry.
- **Painting** — Two coats of high quality, low- or no-chalking acrylic latex paint will protect the siding from the weather. It is particularly important that paint is properly applied to the bottom edge as well as the face of the siding.
- **Roof/Wall Detail** — A two-inch clearance should be left between the roof and siding where the roof abuts a vertical wall, and the gap should be flashed to divert rain water.
- **Concrete Contact** — An air space or vapor-retardant membrane must be kept between wood or wood composite siding and masonry to prevent deterioration of the siding. Siding must not come in direct contact with masonry.
- **Grade Clearance** — Maintaining a minimum six-inch clearance between the siding and finished landscape grade will protect the siding.

■ **Rain Gutters** — According to HUD Minimum Property Standards, rain gutters must be installed on any single-story house with less than 12-inch overhang.

These installation guidelines must be followed up by periodic homeowner maintenance. Masonite Building Products Group has developed a booklet covering homeowner maintenance. To receive your copy, write to: Siding Car Kit, c/o Masonite Customer Service Department F, P.O. Box 4032, Monroe LA 71211.

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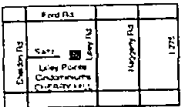
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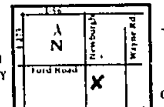
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