

Siding Installation and Connectors



FEMA



HOME BUILDER'S GUIDE TO COASTAL CONSTRUCTION FEMA 499/August 2005 Technical Fact Sheet No. 25

Purpose: To provide basic installation tips for various types of siding.

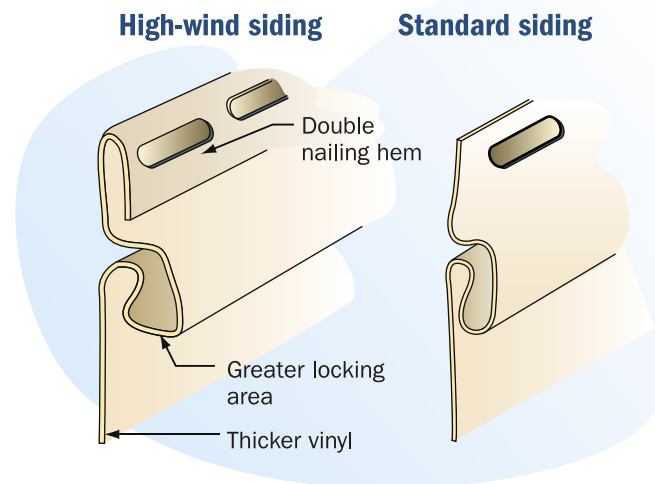
Key Issues

- Always follow manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Use products that are suitable for a coastal environment. Many manufacturers do not rate their products in a way that makes it easy to determine whether the product will be adequate for the coastal environment. Require suppliers to provide information about product reliability in this environment.
- Use high-wind installation procedures if available. These may include spacing nails closer together, using longer nails, or both.
- Use recommended fasteners to avoid staining. Avoid using dissimilar metals together.
- Coastal buildings require more maintenance than inland structures. This maintenance requirement needs to be considered in both the selection and installation of siding.

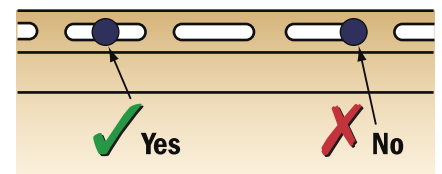
Vinyl Siding

Vinyl siding can be used successfully in a coastal environment if properly installed.

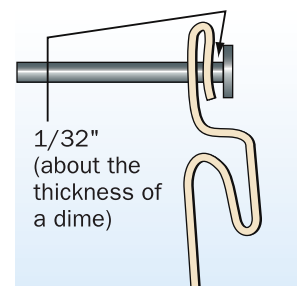
- Choose siding that has been rated for high winds. These products typically have an enhanced nailing hem and are sometimes made from thicker vinyl. Thick, rigid panels provide greater wind resistance, withstand dents, and lie flatter and straighter against the wall. Optimum panel thickness should be 0.040 inch to 0.048 inch, depending on style and design. Thinner gauge vinyl works well for stable climates; thicker gauge vinyl is recommended for areas with high winds and extreme temperature changes.
- Position nails in the center of the nailing slot.
- Do not drive the head of the nail tight against the nail hem (unless the hem has been specifically designed for this). Allow 1/32-inch clearance between the fastener head and the siding panel.
- Drive nails straight and level to prevent distortion and buckling in the panel.
- Do not caulk the panels where they meet the receiver of inside corners, outside corners, or J-trim. Do not caulk the overlap joints.
- Do not face-nail or staple through siding.
- Use aluminum, galvanized steel, or other corrosion-resistant nails when installing vinyl siding. Aluminum trim pieces require aluminum or stainless steel fasteners.
- Nail heads should be 5/16 inch minimum in diameter. Shank should be 1/8 inch in diameter.



Features of typical high-wind siding and standard siding.



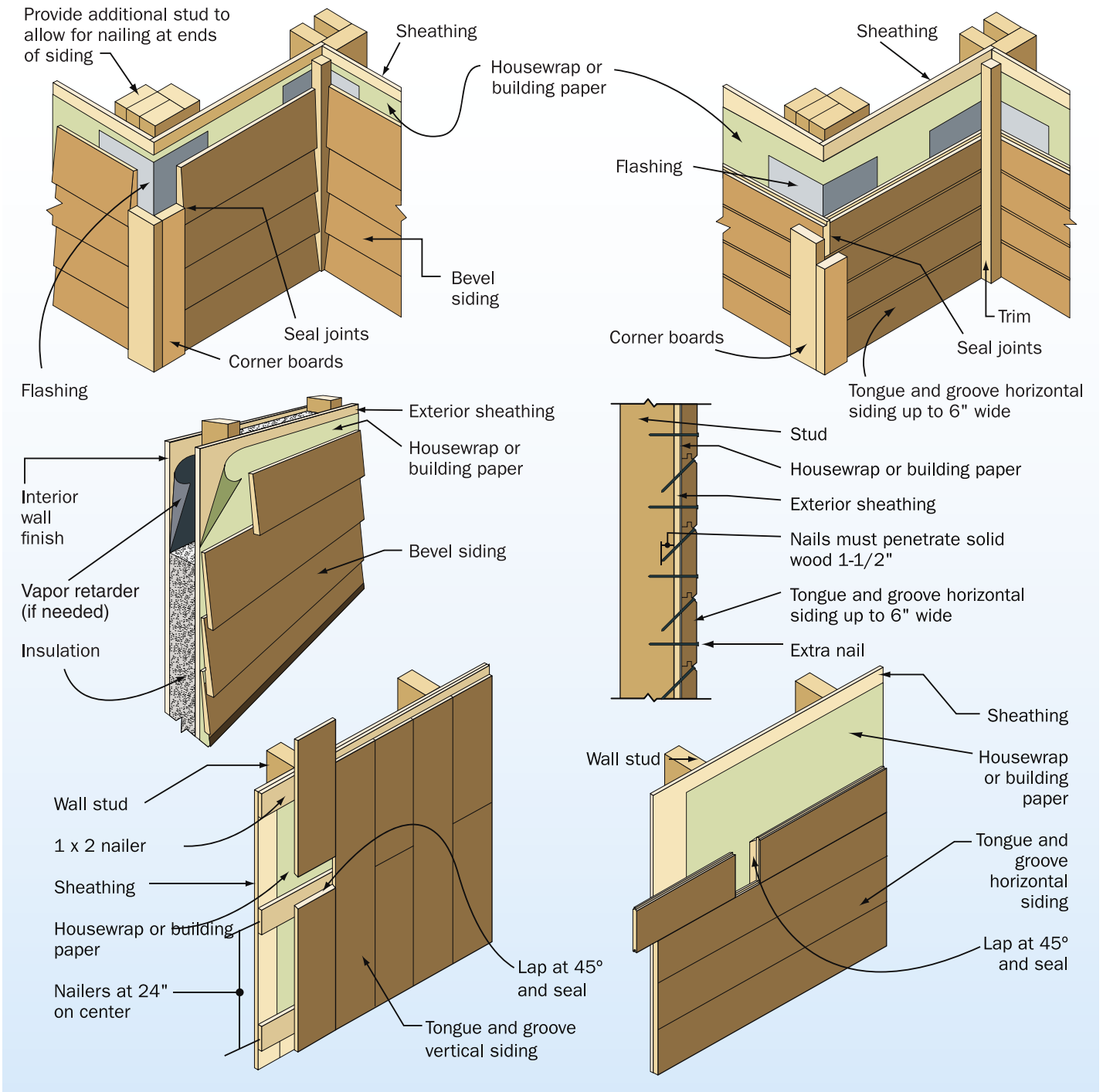
Proper and improper fastener locations.



Allow 1/32-inch clearance between the fastener head and the siding panel.

Wood Siding

- Use naturally decay-resistant wood such as redwood, cedar, or cypress.
- Wood siding should be back-primed before installation.
- Carefully follow manufacturer's detailing instructions to prevent excessive water intrusion.
- Use high-quality stainless steel nails to prevent siding damage (staining).



Fiber Cement Siding

Installation procedures are similar to those for wood siding, but require specialized cutting blades and safety precautions because of the dust produced during cutting with power tools. Manufacturer's installation recommendations should be strictly adhered to, and particular attention paid to the painting and finishing recommendations for a high-quality installation.