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Getting Started

When you are trying to decide on what your next project will be, there are countless options. However, few home improvements can pay for themselves the way a new siding can. Installing new siding on a home can relieve you of the hassle of constant painting, as well as providing greater curb appeal and enhancing the value of the property. No matter your motivation, Curtis Lumber has the variety and expertise to get your project started off right.

How Do I Know if I Need New Siding?

Siding is your home's first defense against the wind and rain. It acts as a skin to shed the elements down and away from your home as well as to add aesthetic beauty. There may be many reasons you would consider adding new siding, some tips on how you know it's time to update are included below.

Indications that you might need new siding:

- You are building a new home or addition
- The existing siding requires excessive maintenance. You may be tired of having to paint year after year, or the siding requires frequent repair of damage.
- Additional insulation to improve heating and cooling efficiency is needed. It is much easier to add insulation before siding and new sidings can increase the R-value (a measure of insulating ability) of your home.
- Existing siding has dry rot or insect damage
- Some rooms of your home are too warm or too cold, indicating inadequate insulation.
- Blistering wallpaper or peeling paint inside the home.
- Existing siding is showing signs of staining, uneven weathering, buckling or decay.
- You want to update the look of your home's exterior and improve curb appeal.

Just because your siding meets some of the above criteria, does not mean you need to replace your siding. Your friendly Curtis Lumber salesperson can help you to determine whether or not repair or replacement is the right option and walk you through the decision process.

What are the Main Components of a Siding Project?

A siding project is a system of components working together to shield your home from the elements.

Siding Panels:	Vinyl, Fiber Cement, Natural Wood (plank and plywood), Wood Composite, Brick, Stone, or Metal (usually steel) cladding that is meant to shed water and protect your home from the effects of the weather while providing aesthetic appeal to your home.
Backerboard:	A flat material used on the face of the house, usually plywood or foam insulating board, applied over the existing wall surface in order to provide an even surface for installing siding. In new construction applications, this is usually OSB or another panel product, mounted directly to the wall studs or over existing siding.
Housewrap:	A moisture barrier, preventing precipitation from getting into the stud wall construction while allowing water vapor to pass out from the interior living space to the outdoors.
Trim:	Siding accessories, including J-Blocks, starter strip, corners, window & door surrounds, fascia, soffit, and channel that give a siding job a professional appearance while creating a weather resistant system.
Flashing:	Metal or other material installed around windows and doors to divert moisture and protect from water infiltration



Selecting the Right Siding

Several factors should be considered when deciding on the type of siding to install on your home. These factors include durability, appearance and architectural styling, cost, maintenance, installation requirements, and the ability to repair or replace in the event of damage.

Durability is a key factor in maintenance and cost. Siding that is easily damaged, may need to be repaired frequently or possibly replaced. Natural products will rot and crack, while some vinyl products will fade over time.

Appearance & Architectural Styling are also important considerations when choosing your siding. The color, texture, and style of siding you choose should enrich your home's look, not just protect it from the elements.

Cost of new siding is made up of two factors, material costs and labor costs. Be sure to include both when evaluating different types of siding. For example, fiber cement siding is more difficult to install and has a high material cost, but will last for 50 years or more. Because of this, it may actually be less expensive over the life span of the home to install a more durable product.

Maintenance is a key factor in siding selection. Wood products require sealing or painting at regular intervals, while vinyl, cement, & metal require considerably less maintenance. No matter the product you choose, be sure to follow the recommended maintenance.

The **Ability to Repair** a siding is something that is not frequently considered when starting a new project. However, if you live in an area with extreme weather, it is important. All sidings have different installation methods, which means some can be easily fixed, while others can only be replaced.

Installation of sidings vary from quick and easy to challenging and time-intensive.

Types of Siding

Vinyl Sidings:

The most common siding material in North America, vinyl siding provides an appealing look at an inexpensive cost with virtually no maintenance. Vinyl will fade over time, but new materials have minimized the amount of fading that occurs. When buying, you should compare the thickness of the panels as the thicker the panel the more durable and realistic it will be. There are multiple styles including different widths, shingles, shakes, vertical, and specialty options. There are more colors today than ever before and they go all the way through the material, making scratching a concern of the past. It is also easy and quick to install Vinyl Siding, saving on labor costs.

Steel Sidings:

Traditionally used for commercial or agricultural buildings, modern metal siding has remained a popular choice for buildings that need a durable covering. It is manufactured in a wide variety of colors, installs easily, is practically maintenance free and has a green product life cycle (frequently made from recycled steel and can be recycled at the end of its life). In addition, metal siding is resistant to adverse weather, has a long life span and is relatively low cost. While slightly more difficult to install than vinyl, steel can be applied quickly and efficiently.

Wood Sidings:

The majority of modern sidings all strive to imitate the look of real solid wood siding. However, solid wood (usually cedar or pine) remains a popular choice. With periodic maintenance, wood siding can outlast vinyl and other modern pretenders. The variety of pattern options include traditional clapboard, shakes, shingles, log cabin, shiplap, novelty, and more. Even custom patterns can be made to achieve just the right look. Cedar has natural rot-resistant properties which makes for easier maintenance than other types of wood. Installing wood siding is time consuming and requires caulking, finishing, and special materials that allow the wood to breathe.

**Fiber Cement:**

For those who want the look of wood but not the hassles and costs associated with it, fiber-cement siding is a great alternative. The product is available in a variety of textures that provide the appearance of wood shakes or shingles, stucco, or other textured patterns. Fiber-cement siding is more durable than wood -- it is termite-resistant, water-resistant, non-combustible, and carries a 50 years warranty depending on manufacturer. Installation can be difficult. The product has to be handled carefully and cutting can be a challenge.

Stone:

Stone is perhaps the most durable of all building materials. Granite, marble, slate, brick, and other types of stone are beautiful and nearly impervious to the weather. Unfortunately, they also tend to be expensive to purchase and install. The answer to these problems is engineered stone (a.k.a. Cultured Stone). Engineered stone looks and feels like real stone, but is more affordable and provides for easier installation. Use stone with a variety of other siding products to accent the home's features and provide architectural variety.

Engineered Wood:

Engineered wood, or composite wood, is made with wood byproducts glued together into sheets or individual boards. The most common types are OSB (wafer board) and plywood. Engineered wood usually comes in panels that are easy and inexpensive to install or it may be molded to create the look of traditional clapboards. Because the textured grain is uniform, engineered wood does not look exactly like real wood, but the appearance is more natural than vinyl or aluminum. A good inexpensive engineered wood siding option is T-111.

Be sure to consider these factors and types before selecting the siding you plan to use. If you need help, do not hesitate to stop in and speak with a Curtis Lumber salesperson. With so many siding options available and in stock, there is guaranteed to be one to fit your project!



Put on the Finishing Touch

No siding job is complete without adding that special touch that makes your house a home. Adding shutters, trim, gutters, and other accessories can transform a nice siding job into a breathtaking project. Be sure to speak to your Curtis Lumber salesperson for assistance in selecting the right details for your next project.

Shutters and Blinds

The terms shutters and blinds are often used incorrectly. If the space in the center of the stile and rail frame is solid, it is a shutter. However, if this area is filled with slats, it is a blind. Blinds were originally used to ventilate a house when the weather outside was not conducive to leaving your windows open, while shutters were used to "shut up" the house in the owner's absence by offering added protection against a break-in. Because shutters and blinds were originally meant to close over the window, they still look best if they appear to have this feature.

Keep in mind:

- When sizing a shutter or blind, ensure each is wide enough to cover half the window.
- Measure the width of the window from brick mold to brick mold and the height from brick mold to window sill. The width of the shutter should be 1/2 the width measurement and the full height measurement.
- Adding special details like arch tops, decorative hinges, and s-hooks will give your home a traditional look.

Exterior Trim

Exterior trim is a valuable accent to any home's exterior. Adding or replacing exterior trim is a great way to draw attention to your home, accent the color of the rest of your house, and give your home a look that is unique to you and your personality. Exterior trim comes in a variety of materials, from primed wood to full PVC and can be either smooth or with a wood grain texture. Depending on the style of your home and how the trim will be used, there is a trim that is best suited for your application.

Window and Door headers are another great way to add that special flair to your home. These headers can include starbursts, keystones and more and add that special details that complete your home's exterior. Don't forget to talk about Exterior Trim options with your friendly Curtis Lumber salesperson. They will be happy to help you choose the trim that adds your personal touch to your new siding job!

Rain Gutters

Gutters prevent damaging water from running across windows and doors and down the sides of your house. They also channel water away from your foundation, reducing the chance of basement leaks. Gutters are usually made of aluminum, steel or vinyl. Old-fashioned gutters might even be copper or wood. Wooden gutters require significantly more maintenance and are generally no longer used; still, they may be appropriate in certain historical or restoration applications.

When its time to install new or replace existing gutters, keep in mind these few tips:

- Gutters need to be cleaned twice a year, in the spring and fall
- Solid gutter shields are the most effective form of cover for gutters.
- Gutters **MUST** be installed with a slope. For most gutters, a 5/8" drop for every 10' is appropriate, but be sure to check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Place the mouth of the downspout over a hard sloped surface (like a driveway) to carry the rain away from the home.

Be sure to stop into your local Curtis Lumber for tips and tricks on this easy do-it-yourself project!

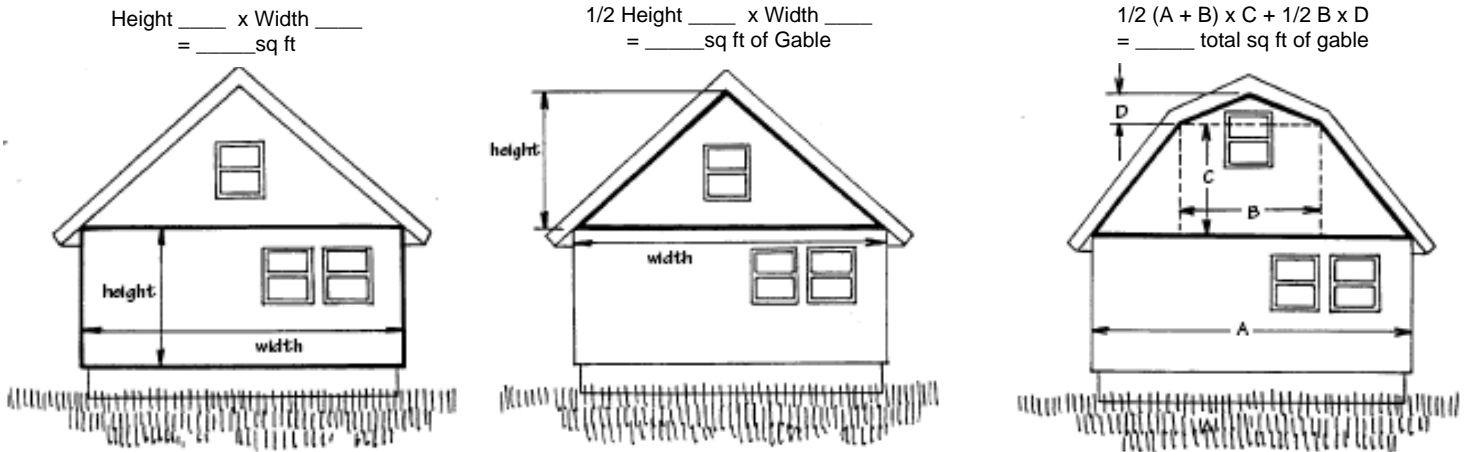


Siding Measuring Guide

Measuring for new siding is easy. To determine how much siding you will need, follow these simple steps:

In order to estimate how much siding you will need, you must first estimate the total square footage of your home's exterior wall surface. All houses can be broken down into shapes of rectangles, triangles or a combination of both. The area to be sided can be determined by determining the square footage of each square and rectangle, including windows.

Some common measuring techniques are illustrated in the figures below:



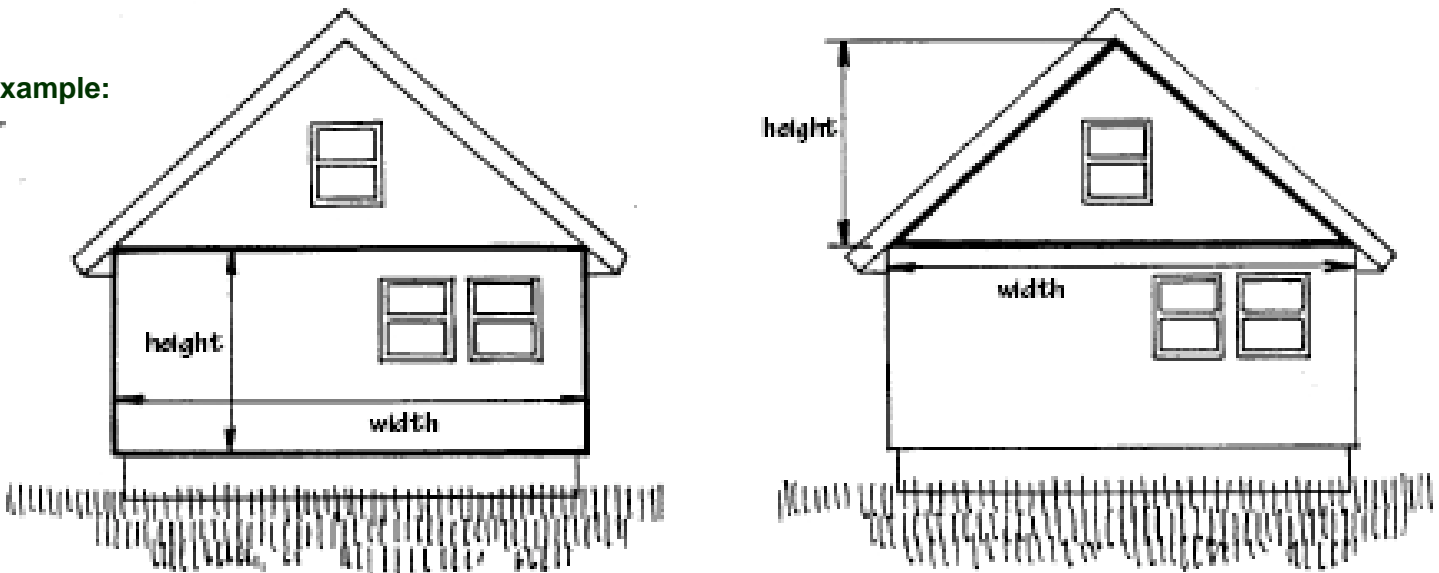
Once, you have measured all of the individual areas, total the measurements. Windows and doors are not usually deducted. Including them will provide an allowance factor for waste. If the windows and doors are extremely large (such as a garage or sliding glass doors), some deductions can be made.

For Vinyl Siding Starter Strip, flashing, and accessories, be sure to measure the linear feet around the base of the house.

$$\text{Height } ____ \times \text{Width } ____ = ____ \text{ sq ft}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ Height } ____ \times \text{Width } ____ = ____ \text{ sq ft of Gable}$$

Example:



If the above house has a width of 20 feet and a height of 10 feet, the rectangular surface area equals $20 \times 10 = 200$ square feet. Then, to calculate the gable end, with the width of 20 feet and additional height of 8 feet, multiply half the height by the width, or $\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4 \times 20 = 80$ square feet. To calculate the total square footage needed for this side of the house, add 200 to 80, for a total square footage of 280. Repeat these steps for all 4 sides of your home to calculate the total square footage needed.

If you need help in determining how much siding you will need, feel free to stop into your local Curtis Lumber for friendly, professional advice on your project.



Siding Checklist

Please fill out this planning sheet to the best of your ability in order to help you refine what you might want for siding. Our salespeople will walk you through the process in-person, however, this checklist will help you to think about what you might want. Bring this sheet to a store to share with your salesperson.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Jobsite Location: _____

About Your Project

How did you hear about Soofing at Curtis Lumber? _____

When was your house originally built? _____ Age of current siding? _____

When would you like to begin the project? _____

Are you installing the siding or are you working with a contractor? _____

If Contractor, Name: _____ Phone: _____

Is the home new construction? _____

What type(s) of siding are you considering? _____

What is the square footage of the exterior? _____

How many lineal feet around the home are to be sided? _____



What will you be siding over?

☐

Bare Sheathing

☐

Existing Sheathing

☐

Other (Fill In) _____

How many gable ends will be covered in siding? _____

How many inside corners? _____ How many outside corners? _____

What is your roof pitch? _____

Do you want your siding to cover the entire house or will you use accents? _____

What color and material is your roof? _____

Do you need shutters and trim? _____

Be sure to bring this completed questionnaire to your initial store visit.

It is not required, but will help us to understand your project and get you accurate pricing.