DURATION
MOULDING & MILLWORK

9 Things to Consider on Any Siding Project

1. Profile – Whether you're matching an existing material, trying to meet historical standards, or simply want a substantive "feel" of the material with nice shadow lines, the profile of the material is the most important factor in terms of the final "look" of the siding.

2. Material Lengths – The length of siding material affects both the speed of installation and the number of joints in the finished product. Longer length siding pieces are faster to install, have the fewest number of joints, and result in the least amount of waste.

3. Clearance Requirements – Most siding materials have stringent guidelines regarding minimum distance requirements between the siding product and grade (i.e. the ground), porch and decking surfaces, and roofing materials – failure to install the siding the required distance from these surfaces normally invalidates the siding warranty

4. Gapping – Most siding materials need to be "gapped" at time of installation so as to allow for expansion and contraction of the siding due to either temperature change or level of moisture absorption – Gapping is generally not aesthetically pleasing but, again, failure to maintain required gapping will void most warranties.

5. Temperature – Some siding materials are difficult to work with in extreme temperatures (i.e. when the ambient temperature is quite cold or quite warm)… and in the case were edges need be sealed, most primers and paints require a 50-90 degree surface and air temperature.

6. Cut Edge Sealing - Most siding materials absolutely require any cuts made in the field to be properly sealed, to prevent moisture from getting to the core material. Failure to do so will void the warranty. This requirement can result in the inability to properly install sidings when temperatures are below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

7. Safety – Proper safety precautions to prevent the inhalation of siding dust should always be taken with whatever siding material is being cut. Some materials like fiber cement, however, contain materials that have been flagged by OSHA as highly dangerous.

8. Prefinished vs. Field Finished – While prefinished sidings sound like a time-saver, the benefits of field finishing include the ability to get the final color exactly right, the ability to properly conceal fastener holes and penetrations, and, most importantly, the ability to easily touch-up damaged or repaired areas well into the future without having a conspicuous area of touch-up.

9. Environmental Impact – For those concerned with the effect of siding production on the environment, the source of wood, engineered wood, fiber cement, and PVC sidings should be compared to that of siding using primarily recycled content.