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Section 1 — Introduction

Introduction

Plan your work, then work your plan.

That’s the key to success with any project, and it’s doubly true when it comes to installing vinyl siding, soffit, trim and accessories.

If you use the right materials and the right tools in the right order, you’ll complete remodeling and new home installations in less time, with less effort, and with far greater satisfaction.

Since you’re using CertainTeed products, you’ve already taken the first step toward success. CertainTeed sidings, soffit, trim and accessories provide premium quality, rugged durability and outstanding appearance. Quite simply, they’re made to look great—on the day they’re installed and for years after.

The second ingredient of success — using the proper tools, techniques and procedures — is covered in this book. As you’ll see by scanning the table of contents, this book guides you through every step of the installation process, from estimating materials to attaching mailboxes and shutters. Every major installation project is covered: horizontal; vertical, including Board & Batten; soffit and fascia; porch ceilings; and decorative trim. Where various approaches to a particular installation procedure are possible, the book presents practical alternatives. To make the instructions as detailed and complete as possible, hundreds of illustrations accompany the text.

As you’re reading—and while you’re working—keep in mind the most important rule of thumb for successful vinyl siding installation: allow for movement. All vinyl siding, soffit and accessories used in exterior applications must be able to move freely as they expand and contract with temperature changes. You’ll see this point emphasized again and again throughout this book; you’ll also learn various techniques for measuring, fitting and nailing that will allow this unobstructed movement. These are perhaps the most important lessons in this booklet.

NOTE: No instruction book can anticipate all the questions that might arise during a siding or soffit installation. Recognizing this, we’ve focused on the tools and techniques used to complete typical installations. Where appropriate, we’ve also included alternative approaches for specific installation steps. If you encounter a unique installation problem not covered in this book, we suggest you contact your building materials distributor or call our Sales Support Group at 1-800-233-8990.
SECTION 2 — Siding Overview

Home Exterior Terms

- Vertical Siding
- Gable
- Dormer
- Rake
- Soffit
- Fascia
- Siding
- Outside cornerpost
- Inside cornerpost
Features of Polymer Shake Siding

QuickReference™ Nail Mark Indicators
- Industry exclusive easy-to-use nailing guide
- No measuring needed for correct panel nailing

QuickReference™ Panel Cut Indicators
- Improves speed and ease of installation

Patented PanelThermometer™
- Displays panel temperature!
- Easy-to-use temperature gauge
- The brightest cell indicates panel temperature
- Increases installation accuracy, decreases call backs

Extra Long Top Locking Tabs
- Create an easier locking panel

Over-sized Perimeter Side Locking Tabs
- Helps create seamless appearance
- Allow for fast and easy panel engagement
- Offer greater tab strength and less breakage
- Extended lead-in allows for ease of installation

Straight-Up Installation
- Notched side laps allow you to push in and straight-up to lock the panel securely — just like traditional vinyl siding!

Deep Panel Projection
- Created distinctive shadow lines and shingle definition
- Perfection and Half-Round Shingles: 3/4” projection
- Rough-Split Shakes: 1” projection
Polymer Shake and Shingle Siding Styles

- **Triple 5" Straight Edge Perfection Shingles**
- **Double 7" Straight Edge Perfection Shingles**
- **Double 7" Staggered Perfection Shingles**
- **Double 7" Straight Edge Rough-Split Shakes**
- **Double 9" Staggered Rough-Split Shakes**
- **Double 6-1/4" Half-Round Shingles**

**Exclusive Positive Lock**
- Self-supporting, friction lock
- No need to hold panel while nailing
- Lead-in guide ensures engagement
- Allows for band board shrinkage

**Center Pin Hole**
- Allows for even expansion and contraction of the panel.

**Reinforced Ribs on Nail Slots and Lock Tabs**
- Provide improved lock strength and holding power
Traditional Vinyl Siding Terms

Profile
The contour or outline of a siding panel as viewed from the side.

Nail flange
Flat area along top of panel with slots for nailing; slots allow for expansion and contraction.

Lock
Molded area just under nailing flange into which butt leg/locking leg of next panel above is secured.

Exposure
The width of the exposed face of each panel of siding; also referred to as reveal.

Texture
Visual and tactile characteristics of the siding panel; designed to recreate the authentic look of natural wood grain, stucco, smooth painted clapboard, etc.

Panel Thickness
An important element of siding quality. Thicker panels are more durable, stand up to impacts and high winds, and look straighter on the wall.

Butt leg/locking leg
The bottom part of a siding profile that connects or locks into the panel below.

Panel projection
Common to products with multiple faces (i.e. Double 4 or Triple 3). It is the dimension required for the proper selection of receiving channels (e.g., J-channels and corner pieces).
Vinyl Siding Styles

Single 8" Clapboard
Double 4" Clapboard
Double 4-1/2" Clapboard
Double 5" Clapboard
Triple 3" Clapboard

Double 4" Dutchlap
Double 4-1/2" Dutchlap
Double 5" Dutchlap
Single 6-1/2" Beaded

Single 8" Vertical Board & Batten
Single 7" Straight Edge Rough-Split Shakes
Single 9" Staggered Rough-Split Shakes
Insulated Siding Styles

- Single 7" Clapboard
- Double 4" Clapboard
- Double 6" Clapboard
- Double 4.5" Dutchlap
- Single 12" Vertical Board and Batten
SECTION 3 — Vinyl Soffit and Ventilation

Features of Vinyl Soffit

Profile
The contour or outline of a soffit panel as viewed from the side.

Texture
Visual and tactile characteristics of the soffit panel; designed to recreate the authentic look of natural wood grain, stucco, smooth, etc.

Nailing Flange
Flat area along top of panel with slots for nailing; slots allow for expansion and contraction.

Lock
Molded area just under nailing flange into which butt leg/locking leg of adjacent panel is secured.

Panel Projection
Common to products with multiple faces (i.e. Triple 3). It is the dimension required for the proper selection of receiving channels (e.g., J-channels and corner pieces).

Exposure
The width of the exposed face of each panel of soffit; also referred to as reveal.

Panel Thickness
An important element of soffit quality. Thicker panels are more durable and are less prone to sagging.

Butt Leg / Locking Leg
Molded area at bottom of panel that is snapped into lock on adjacent panel for secure connection.

Solid Soffit

Center Vented Soffit

Fully Vented Soffit

Invisibly Vented Soffit
SECTION 4 — Accessories and Tools

Corner Systems

Outside cornerposts

3/4" Outside cornerpost—woodgrain and matte.
Use with all sidings except Cedar Impressions D9 Rough-Split Shakes, Northwoods S9 Rough-Split Shakes and CedarBoards.

1" Outside cornerpost—woodgrain.
Use with Cedar Impressions D9 Rough-Split Shakes and Northwoods Shakes.

1-1/4" Outside cornerpost with foam insert—woodgrain.
Use with Cedar Impressions Rough-Split Shakes, Northwoods Shakes and CedarBoards.

Inside cornerposts

3/4" Inside cornerpost—matte.
Use where siding meets at inside corners; provides a finished look.

1-1/4" Inside cornerpost—matte.
Use with Cedar Impressions Rough-Split Shakes, Northwoods Shakes and CedarBoards.

Fluted SuperCorner—matte

3/4" Fluted corner design with foam backing.

Traditional SuperCorner™—matte

3/4" and 1-1/4" Wide decorative traditional corner treatment with foam backing. The 1-1/4" is used with Cedar Impressions Rough-Split Shakes, Northwoods Shakes, and CedarBoards.

Beaded SuperCorner™—matte

Wide decorative beaded corner treatment with foam backing.
Corner Systems (continued)

Mitered cornerposts
Outside and inside corner treatment for use with Cedar Impressions.

Bay window cornerpost—matte
Adapts to odd angles of bay windows.

Quarter round insert—matte
Installed with a Corner Starter and lineals as a decorative corner treatment.

5" Corner cap—matte
Used to create corner systems.

Cedar Impressions S7" bay window inside and outside cornerposts
Use with Cedar Impressions D7" Straight Edge Perfection Shingles only to adapt to the odd angles of a bay window.
**Lineals**

3-1/2" Snap-on lineal
Use with J-channel.

3-1/2" Lineal
5" Lineal
3-1/2" Lineal with foam insert
For use with a New Construction Window and Door Starter around windows and doors as a casing. Two lineals can be used to create a corner system when installed with a corner starter and corner insert. The 3/4" channel receives siding panels. Lineals with foam inserts are available for use with insulated siding.

3-1/2" Double channel lineal
5" Double channel lineal
For use with horizontal or vertical siding transitions. Exposure matches 3-1/2" window and door surround lineals.

**Decorative Trim**

Corner block
Used with 3-1/2" lineals to finish corners around windows and doors.

Rosette
Attaches to Corner Block as a decorative treatment.

Crown molding
Used in conjunction with 5" lineals to create a custom molded window or door header. Can also be used with 3-1/2" lineals and 3/4" pocket J-channels. Crown has a 2-1/4" top exposed edge.

Crown molding cap
Caps the ends of a crown molding with minimal cutting.

*NOTE: Shown already cut in half—one piece makes a left and right-end cap.*
Decorative Trim (continued)

Cornice molding
Finish board
Held in place by the F-channel or Cornice Molding Receiver, this accessory hides the installation of the topmost siding panels. With the help of a nail slot punch, topmost siding panels can be installed with nails every time. Can also be used under windows.

Cornice molding receiver
Installed under eaves to hold the Cornice Molding or Finish Board in place. Does not receive soffit panels.

Cornice molding cornerpost cap
Used to cap Cornice Molding over Mitered Cornerposts.

Band board
7-1/4" foam backed, decorative trim used with Cedar Impressions Rough-Split Shakes, Northwoods Rough Split Shake, and CedarBoards.

2-1/2" Window and door casing
A 2-1/2" wide-face J-channel that accentuates windows and doors. Designed to accommodate new construction window flanges and fit snugly against window and door frames. This accessory is also ideal for gable trim applications.

J-Channels

J-Channel
3/8" J-channel
1/2" J-channel
3/4" J-channel
1" J-channel
1-1/4" J-channel
Universal siding and soffit receiving channel for use around utility openings, under eaves, etc.

3/4" Flexible J-Channel
Specialized 3/4" siding receiving trim; particularly useful around curved windows and ventilation treatments.
Functional Trim

Aluminum trim coil
24"-wide PVC-coated aluminum.

Dual undersill trim
Secures trimmed siding panels under windows and eaves regardless of the profile or where in the panel face the panel has been trimmed.

Undersill trim
Cedar Impressions undersill trim
Helps secure trimmed siding panels under windows and eaves.

Drip cap
Acts as a flash over windows and doors.

Vinyl fascia
Installed with F-channel and undersill trim to provide a virtually maintenance-free fascia board.

Starter Strips

2-1/4" Vinyl starter strip
Secures the first course of siding to the home. For use with all sidings except Monogram® 46, Monogram® 46L, Monogram® 46XL, CedarBoards, CedarBoards XL, and Cedar Impressions®.

2-1/2" Metal starter strip
For use with all sidings except CedarBoards and Cedar Impressions.
**Starter Strips (continued)**

**5" Metal starter strip**
Designed to be used on remodeling jobs to help level the first course and span areas that cannot be nailed. For use with all sidings except CedarBoards and Cedar Impressions.

**4" Metal shingle starter strip**
4" metal starter to be used with Cedar Impressions.

**Starter strip for Insulated Siding**
Vinyl starter strip that accommodates 1-1/4" thickness of insulated siding.

**New construction window and door starter**
Butts up against protruding window and door jambs and overhangs for installation of 3-1/2" and 5" lineals.

**Remodeling window and door starter**
Holds 3-1/2" and 5" lineals in place around window and door openings. Used in re-siding applications where existing casings have not been removed.

**Corner starter strip**
Secures 3-1/2" and 5" lineals and quarter round insert to create a 4-piece corner.
**Soffit Trim**

*Soffit cove trim*

A decorative soffit receiver featuring a 9/16" receiving pocket. This profile can also be used as an inside cornerpost. Will not work for all profiles.

**5/8" and 3/4" F-Channel**

Receives soffit panels.

**Deluxe F-Channel**

Receives soffit panels and cornice molding or finish board.

**3/8" H-Bar**

*1/2" H-Bar*

*3/4" H-Bar*

Joins soffit panels. Particularly useful on porch ceilings and hip roof applications.
Equipment and Tools

Fasteners

Use only corrosion-resistant nails (aluminum, stainless or galvanized roofing.) Nails should have a minimum head diameter of 5/16". CertainTeed recommends the use of stainless steel nails or other corrosion-resistant fasteners, when installing siding in coastal areas. Be sure to check with your local code official or governing body for the building requirements in your area. Staples should be a minimum of 16 gauge.

If screws are used, use non-corrosive, self-tapping, pan head or washer head screws or oval head with countersunk washer screws with at least 5/16" diameter head, 1/8" (3mm) diameter shaft, and at least 1-1/8" (29mm) long.

To determine the length of nail required, measure the thickness of the sheathing material. Then add at least 3/4" to allow the nail to penetrate the solid wood substrate (studs or existing wood siding). For more secure fastening, add 1" to sheathing thickness. The minimum nail size should be 1-1/2".

Example: If you’re applying siding over 1/2" sheathing, use a nail at least 1-1/2" long (1/2" sheathing + 3/4" stud penetration + nailing hem thickness + minimum 1/16" between nailing hem and fastener head).

To determine the quantity of nails required, complete the following:

Total square feet of siding required:

(If using aluminum nails) x .005
(If using galvanized roofing nails) x .01

Pounds of nails required:

For nailing instructions, see page 33 to 34.

Tools required

Hammer Tin snips Tape measure Square
Chalk line Level Utility knife Shears

Power circular saw with sharp, fine-tooth plywood blade mounted in reverse direction. (Irwin® Tools Vinyl siding blade is not reversed—tooth design is symmetric 60°.)
Ladders and Scaffolds

NOTE: If you will be using an extension ladder during installation, be sure to cushion the upper side rails to help prevent damage to installed siding.

Cutting table
Portable brake

Essential for bending aluminum trim coil to fit around fascia boards, window sills, window and door casings, etc.

Please refer to the brake manufacturer’s instructions for metal bending techniques.

Transporting and Storing Vinyl Siding and Polymer Shakes

CertainTeed’s standard shipment method incorporates palletizing and stretch wrapping all products.

- The pallet is a double-faced, reversible, Grade M, SPEQ®-certified pallet constructed of quality materials that meet NWPCA Uniform Voluntary Standards (Sec. 5.1, Table 1).

- Customer racking should be at least 46" deep x 157" long to accommodate CertainTeed pallets.

- Do not store pallets by more than three units high.

- Vinyl and polymer siding should be stored indoors and away from direct sources of heat and sunlight. Storing products outside may result in damage.

- Cedar Impressions polymer shakes must be stored vertically.

If you are transporting vinyl siding to a job site, make certain to keep cartons flat and supported along their entire length.

At the job site, take the following precautions when storing panels:

- Store on a flat surface and support the entire length of the carton.

- Keep cartons dry.

- Store away from areas where falling objects or other construction activity may cause damage.

- Do not store in any location where temperatures may exceed 130° F (e.g., on black top pavement during unusually hot weather, under dark tarps or plastic wraps without air circulation, or in unventilated storage trailers).
Special Tools

Nail slot punch (CertainTeed Item # 57997)
Punches elongated holes to allow nailing the cut edge of a panel. Also used to enlarge an existing hole to allow proper nailing.

Snaplock punch (CertainTeed Item # 57995 or 57996)
Punches tabs in the cut edge of a panel used as a finishing course at the top of a wall or underneath a window. The tabs lock into undersill trim. For best results, we recommend using item 57995 Snaplock Punch, which is designed specifically for vinyl applications.

Trim nail punch
Punches trim nail holes into soffit, fascia, and other finishing trim without denting or marring the material. Available from Malco Products, Granger, ProSidingTools.com

Zip tool (CertainTeed Item # 57998 or 57999)
Locks and unlocks panels.
Section 5 — Estimating

Siding

Use the illustrations and formulas below and enter totals on the estimating form on page 27. These formulas apply for both horizontal and vertical installations.

**NOTE:** When estimating for a large project, you may want to add a waste allowance of 10 percent to the totals for siding, soffit and accessories.

Rectangular wall surfaces

Measure height (excluding gables). Measure width (including doors and windows).

\[
\text{surface area} = \text{height} \times \text{width}
\]

Repeat for remaining walls.

Triangular gable end surfaces

Measure height at center (add 1' to allow for waste). Measure width and divide by half.

\[
\text{surface area} = \text{height} \times \frac{1}{2} \text{width}
\]

Repeat for remaining gables.

**NOTE:** Lower pitch roofs will produce more waste than higher pitch roofs.
**Upper wall of gambrel house**

Divide the upper wall of a gambrel house as shown in the illustration. Then use the following formulas:

\[ \frac{1}{2} (B + C) \times H = \quad \text{__________} \]

\[ \frac{1}{2} C \times D = \quad \text{__________} \]

Add these figures to get total area: \[ \quad \text{__________} \]

Repeat for remaining gambrel surfaces.

**Dormer sides**

Measure height of dormer (add 1’ to allow for waste). Use the following formula:

\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ height} \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ width} = \quad \text{surface area, 1 side} \]

\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ height} \times 2 = \quad \text{total dormer surface area} \]

Repeat for all dormers.

**Soffit**

Measure width of eave to be covered. Measure length of eave.

\[ \text{width} \times \text{length} = \quad \text{surface area} \]

Repeat for remaining eaves.

**Porch Ceiling**

Measure length of porch area to be covered. Measure width of porch.

\[ \text{length} \times \text{width} = \quad \text{surface area} \]
Measuring

Before ordering accessories, you also have to determine the width of the J-channel into which you will fit the vinyl siding. To do this, you must first determine which of two methods you will use to apply sheathings or underlayments. This is covered in more detail under “Sheathings.”

**NOTE:** Refer to product catalog for product accessory recommendations and availability.

**Starter strip:** Measure along base of building.

**J-channel:** For siding installations, measure around doors and windows, under eaves, at rake edges of gables where dormer meets roofline, and anywhere else required to provide a finished appearance.

For soffit, measure along wall under eave and along fascia board.

For porch ceilings, measure along perimeter of the porch area.

**F-channel:** For soffit, measure along wall under eve.

For porch ceilings, measure along perimeter of the porch area.

**3-1/2” and 5” Lineals:** For casing, measure along perimeter of doors and windows. For gables, measure at rake edges of gables where dormer meets roof line.

**Undersill trim:** Measure above and below windows and above doors and top course of siding below soffit.

**Soffit H-bar:** Measure diagonals at all eave corners.

**Outside cornerpost:** Measure length of outside corners.

**Inside cornerpost:** Measure length of inside corners.

**NOTE:** If you plan to use J-channel instead of inside cornerposts, remember to double this measurement and add the total to your entry for J-channel.

**Dual undersill trim:** Measure along top of wall where siding will meet eaves.
## Estimating Form

**Siding**
- Walls __________ sq feet
- Gable ends __________ sq feet
- Dormer sides __________ sq feet
- Upper gambrel walls __________ sq feet
- Total wall surface area __________ sq feet (A)

**Large areas not to be covered:**
- (garage doors/sliding glass doors) __________ sq feet x .50

**Uncovered area** __________ sq feet (B)

Subtract B from A for Total net surface area __________ sq feet

**Soffit** __________ sq feet

**Porch ceiling** __________ sq feet

**Accessories**
- Starter strip __________ lineal feet
- Window & door lineal starter __________ lineal feet
- Four piece corner starter __________ lineal feet
- Utility trim __________ lineal feet

**Receiving channel**
- J-channel __________ lineal feet
- 2-1/2" window & door casing __________ lineal feet
- Flexible J-channel __________ lineal feet
- F-channel: 5/8" or 3/4" __________ lineal feet
- Deluxe F-channel __________ lineal feet
- 3-1/2" or 5" lineals __________ lineal feet
- New construction window starter __________ lineal feet
- Dual undersill trim __________ lineal feet

**Outside corner**
- Outside cornerpost __________ lineal feet
- Fluted SuperCorner __________ lineal feet
- Traditional SuperCorner __________ lineal feet
- Beaded SuperCorner __________ lineal feet
- Cedar Impressions/ CedarBoards cornerpost __________ lineal feet

**Inside corners**
- Four piece corner system __________ lineal feet
- Inside cornerpost __________ lineal feet
- J-channel __________ lineal feet
- Soffit cove trim __________ lineal feet
- H-Bar __________ lineal feet
- Corner Blocks __________ pairs
- Rosettes __________ pairs
- Cornice molding receiver __________ lineal feet
- Cornice molding __________ lineal feet

Width of accessory recess opening: (circle one) 1/2"  3/4"  1-1/4"

**Nails**
- Pounds required (1-1/2" minimum) __________