



Simple Guide to Siding

Home siding is one of those improvements that can dramatically change the appearance of your house. It's a pretty big decision—from an investment and an aesthetic standpoint—so you should consider your options carefully before making a commitment.



Top Things to Consider When Buying Siding

Design & Style

Whether you elect to re-surface your entire exterior or attach siding to specific accent areas of your home, the appearance of the siding you choose will dictate the style of your home.

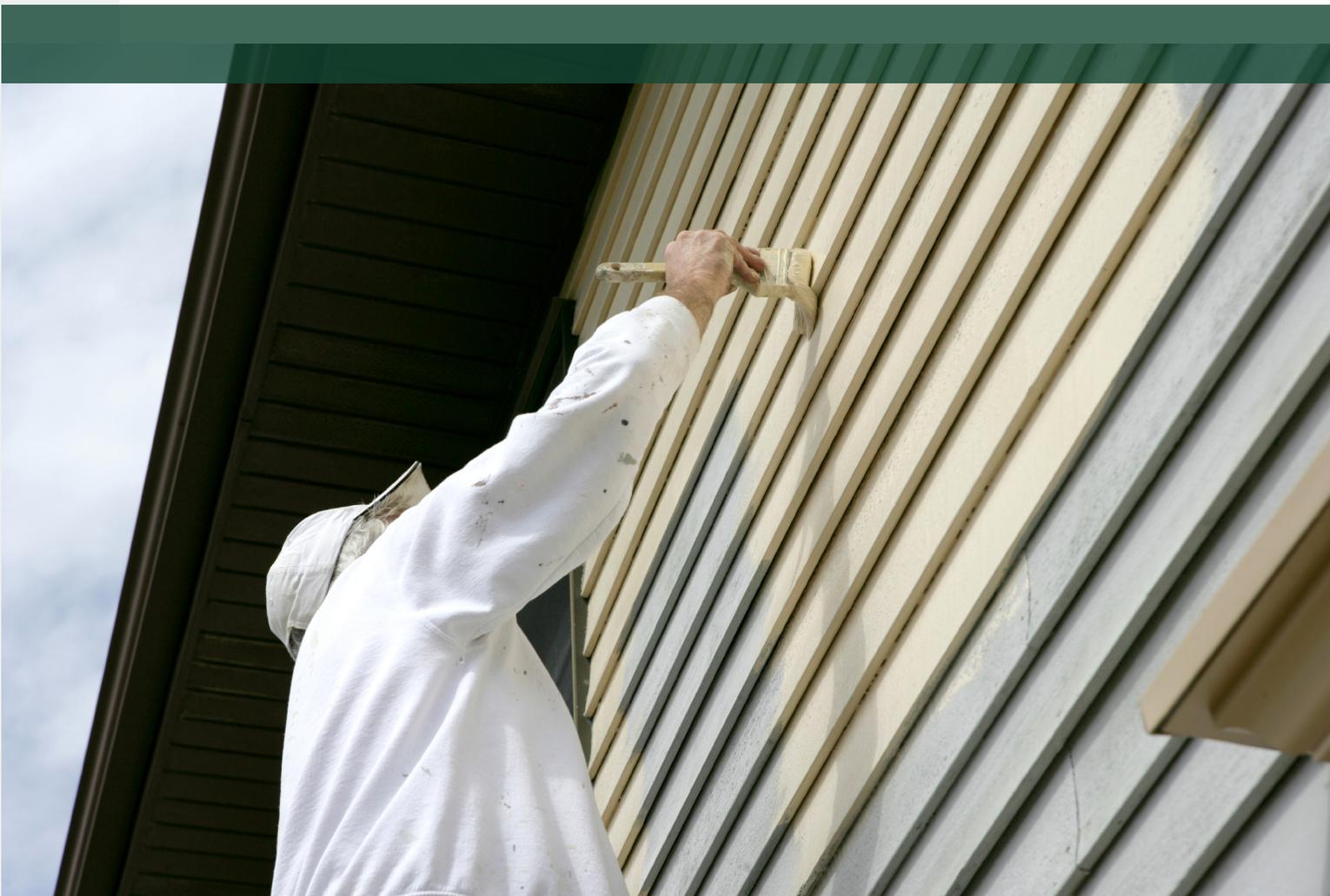
- **Traditional board and batten siding applied vertically will immediately evoke a barn-like look, since this is the type of wood and application used traditionally in farm structures.**
- **Wood clapboard or lap siding, whether left unpainted and sealed or painted to your taste, create an “East Coast”, rustic or beach-house aesthetic. Individual wood shingles often deliver a lake- or mountain-house feeling and can be painted, stained or sealed.**
- **Tongue-and-groove wooden boards applied either horizontally or vertically are always a clean, contemporary choice.**
- **Composite siding offers a range of different design styles and is made from high density material which won’t splinter, shrink, or crack.**
- **A beautiful modern look can be achieved through hardwood siding, like IPE or Mangaris, and provides a rich, natural beauty though different stains or a left alone “weathered out” gray look.**
- **Reclaimed lumber is another option that can provide nuance and interest to a home’s exterior while contributing to sustainability efforts.**



Durability & Maintenance

Siding is truly the first line of defense between your home and the environment. Choose your materials carefully.

- **Do you need siding that provides adequate protection from the damage caused by sun and salt air?**
- **What type of maintenance are you interested in? Do you want to set it and forget for a few years or are you interested in painting and refinishing every couple of years?**



Downfall

“Downfall” is the industry term for the amount of wood that is compromised during milling. Since wood is a natural material, there will necessarily be a small amount of loss along the way. Certain boards won’t make the grade, some will break, and remnants from cuttings will remain. This is a standard part of the milling process.

Since the purchaser is responsible for covering the downfall—and you want to make sure you don’t run out of wood at the very end of your home siding project—you’ll need to buy 5%-10% more wood than will actually be required. This will ensure that you have enough wood to complete the project and cover the downfall, along with some left-over pieces for minor future repairs and mini matching projects like a treehouse or shed.

Keep in mind that when you remove your current siding, you might find unseen damage that must be repaired before moving forward with the project. In older houses, siding is often in direct contact with your exterior wall, so issues with your siding can quickly transfer to the structure of the home itself. Be sure to account for additional time and budget for these repairs.

Measuring Allowance

When you're looking for a general quote for materials, the best thing you can do is to pre-measure the area you would like to cover with siding before coming down to the lumber yard. Include windows and doors in your measurements—it makes measuring surface area much easier and will act as that 5%-10% downfall amount mentioned above.

Also, think about how close to the ground your siding will reach. Since composites are made of cement-like substances, you'll want to avoid ground contact in order to protect against soaking up moisture that will erode the siding. Other materials like vinyl, Boral, cement composites, and aluminum sidings are impervious to moisture and can withstand contact with the ground.





Siding Materials

You have a lot of options when it comes to siding:



- **Fiber Cement:** A composite material that is durable and looks great. J&W Lumber carries James Hardie siding, a favorite of homeowners and contractors alike. Fiber cement is gaining popularity with homeowners in coastal areas in particular, as its resistance to water and salt make it a great choice for longevity.



- **Shake:** Looking for a rustic look? Classic shake siding can give your home a traditional feel – and it’s affordable too. Shake siding will give you that rustic East Coast look filled with timeless charm. It’s understated and simple, and it never goes out of style.



- **Wood:** There’s nothing quite like natural wood. J&W Lumber offers the most popular wood siding patterns in a wide range of redwood and cedar grades – all stainable and paintable so you can keep your home looking fresh year after year. And if you can dream it, we can do it. J&W can custom mill any type of wood to your exact specifications.



- **Hardwood:** Looking for something modern and elegant? Durable and gorgeous hardwoods like Mangaris and Brazilian Ipe are in a class of their own. Hardwoods retain hard lines and edges better than softwood, making them perfect for horizontal siding.



- **Metal:** Protection, durability and cost-friendliness are the hallmarks of metal siding – but they’re also gaining popularity as modern style.



- **Composite:** Low-maintenance and longevity with a natural look. Composite siding materials are one of the most popular options for homeowners across the country.



- **Stone:** Perhaps the most prestigious of all siding options is stone, impervious to weather, rot and just about anything else that mother nature throws its way. Stone siding can have a higher price tag – especially traditional stone which requires extensive masonry work. New products like Boral Versetta Stone, however, offer a far easier and more cost-effective solution. These manufactured stone “shingles” screw into walls individually without the need for masonry.



Thinking of switching up your siding?
The experts at L&W Lumber are here to help.

Stop by one of our San Diego area locations to discuss your options with our siding experts.

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