

# Siding and Vapor Barrier

## TASKS 35, 38, 39

**Purpose:** The siding and vapor barrier (Tyvec) provide the weather protection from wind and rain. The Tyvec reduces wind infiltration but allows moisture to leave the house. The siding sheds the rain and provides another barrier to air movement.

**Tools:** Finish hammer, utility knife, staple gun, circular saw, tape measure, scaffold or stepladder and extension ladder and a pencil.

**Safety issues:**

- Siding will require working from a ladder or scaffold (especially on the gables) and presents a fall hazard.
- Always cut on a stable work surface when working with a power saw.

**Materials:**

- Siding
- Tyvec & Tyvec Tape
- 3/8" or 1/2" staples
- 8d galv box nails

**Inspection Criteria:**

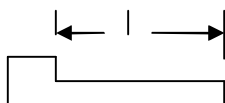
- Prior to starting, make certain all wall sheathing is properly nailed.
- Prior to starting siding, make certain house wrap lies flat and is well fastened; check side for level after first course.

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### Sequence and Methods:

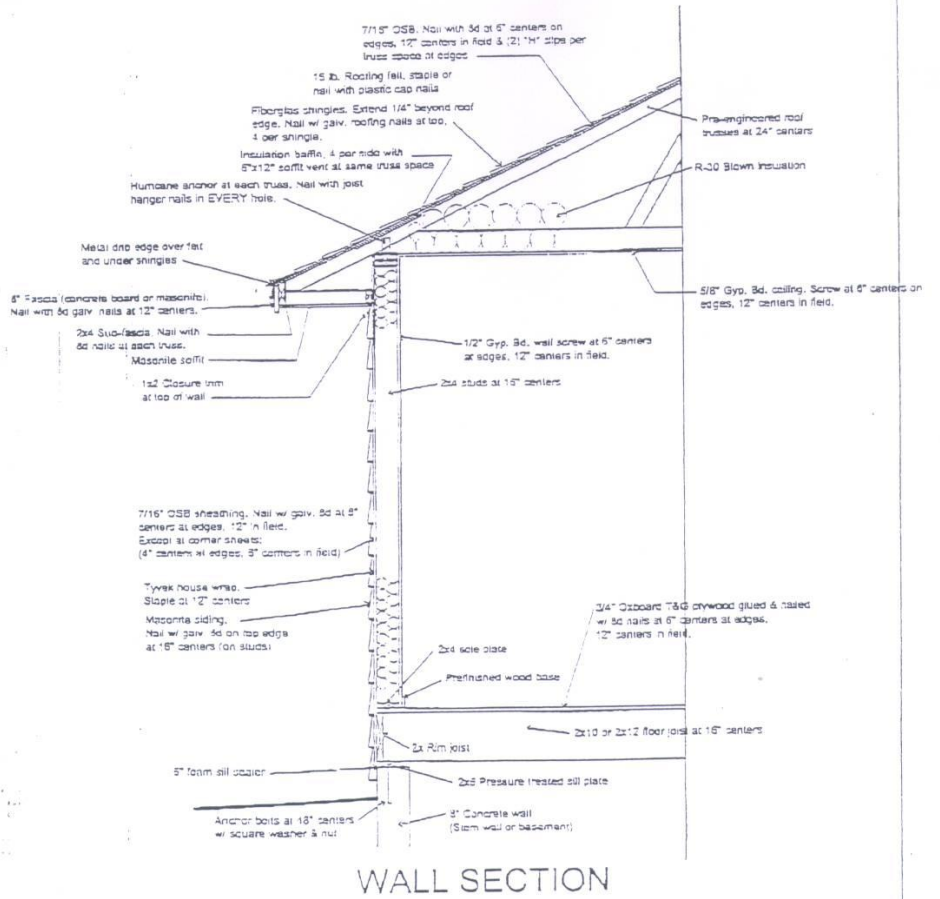
- 1 Wrap the Tyvec around the entire perimeter of the house. Staple every 12” along the top, bottom and corners and every 12” in the field.
- 2 Cut open windows and doors by slicing an X and wrapping the triangular flaps around the frame to reduce air infiltration in between door or window and house frame. Tape any joints in the Tyvec.
- 3 Install the 5/4 x 3 1/2” “Smart-trim” on all corners and around the windows. Use butt-joint instead of miter. (The front door comes with its own trim.)
- 4 At one corner, measure up from the foundation the width of a piece of siding and subtract 1/2” (so the siding will overlap the concrete foundation). Then measure down from the soffit of the house to this line and mark that measurement on all corners of the house. Chalk a line from corner to corner all the way around the house. This line is the top of the first piece of siding. (Trying to make the siding exactly level isn’t necessary, but having the siding end uniformly is aesthetically pleasing.) Normally the top piece must be ripped to fit.
- 5 Mark or chalk the location of all studs to simplify hitting them, as you need to nail each piece at each stud. (Nailing to the OSB isn’t good enough.)
- 6 Using the chalk line as a guide, install the bottom board, nailing with 8d galv box nails at each stud at the top and bottom of each piece. On later sheets nail only the top and the next sheet will hide the nail.
- 7 At the end of each piece install a closure piece (usually metal) to join the end of that piece to the next one.
- 8 Cut some notched sticks to use as spacers and continue up the wall, keeping the spacing as uniform as possible. You can also chalk a line every 4 rows to assure uniformity. Each sheet should overlap the one below by 1”.



Length is 1” less than width of siding boards (11” for 12” siding or 7” for 8” siding).

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