



## Vinyl Siding Installation Process

### A. General

The quality of vinyl siding installation is essential for exterior appearance and for providing adequate weather protection for the building. Different building techniques are necessary due to the nature of the vinyl siding material – its dimensions are significantly affected by the weather. Consequently, where in framing, tight joints and properly set nails are essential, vinyl siding installation is just the opposite. Gaps are needed to accommodate expansion/contraction and loose screw attachments are essential for the same reason.

### B. General Installation Guidance

1. Tools – a number of special tools are used for installing vinyl siding – these tools are never to be used for general carpentry work.

- Circular saw or miter saw with the blade installed backwards – this is to prevent chipping the vinyl material
- Tin snips
- Unlocking tool
- Snap lock punch

2. Screw installation:

- a. Put in screws every 12 inches into the center of the slot and into studs where possible – approximately 3/32” slack in setting the screws (the thickness of a dime).
- b. For window J-channels, put a tight screw at the top of the first slot, other screws with the 3/32” slack.
- c. For corner J-channels, put a tight screw at the top of the top slot, other screws with 3/32” slack.

3. Joints:

- a. Do not position vertical joints above doors or windows.
- b. No joints between windows.
- c. Randomly stagger vertical joints 3-4 feet apart so that any aligned vertical joints are separated by at least three courses of panels.
- d. Allow a 1/4” gap at all J-channel to siding panel joints.

### C. Siding Installation

1. Start by installing the 3 inch wide metal starter strip at the bottom of the wall. Locate the low point of the wall sole plate and place a mark on the TYVEC 2 ½ inches up from the low point and establish a level line from this point to both ends of the wall. The best way to do this is to use the transit. Install the starter strip on this level line and double check that it is in fact level.
  2. Install all J-channels for the wall (against corner boards, around windows/doors, against top frieze board) before starting siding panel installation. Note – a mockup is available which shows the proper configuration for window corner and other common J-channel installations,
  3. Install utility trim in the J-Channels under window sills and frieze boards to receive the cut top edge of siding panels (use the same screws to hold both the utility strip and J-channel in place) – use the snap lock punch to put in raised lugs every 6 inches on the outside of the cut panel edge.
  4. Use a story pole to mark J-channels for siding panel locations on the inside of window/door sides and corner board J-channels and on every other stud.
  5. In order to make them less visible, joints on adjacent panels of siding must face away from the line-of-sight. Joints should always be made using factory edges. For Westbrook Forest using the following designations:
    - North – front of building
    - South – back of the building (Lee Highway)
    - East – Stevenson St. side
    - West – Waples Mill side
- Orient the siding joints as follows:
- Front – start siding on the west side
  - Back – start siding on the west side
  - East (Stevenson St. side) – start siding at the back
  - West (Waples Mill side) – start siding at the back
6. If the siding panel is cut, ensure the cut edge goes into a J-channel.
  7. Check horizontal alignment after each course to ensure proper alignment above windows and doors and around corners.