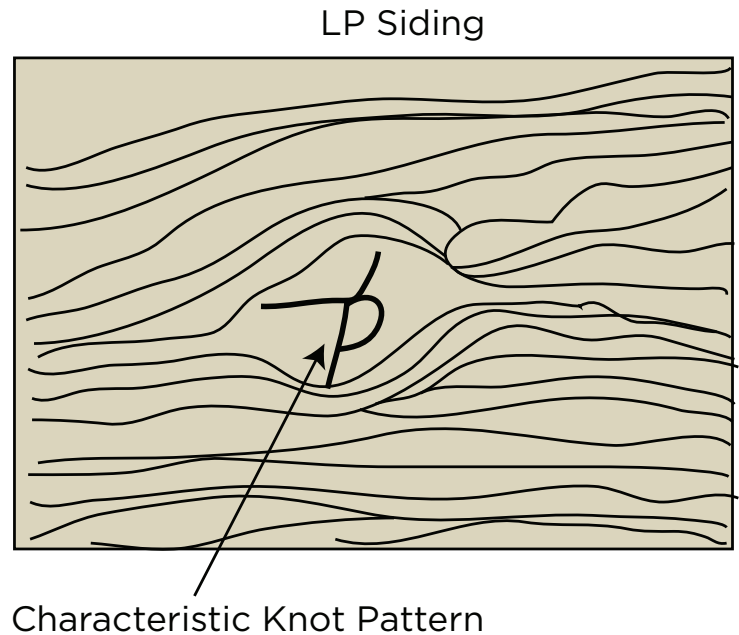


Manufactured Wood Siding

Traditionally, wood siding is made of real planks of wood. In the 80's a number of products that look like wood siding but are manufactured out of wood particles, chips or wafers became popular. There are a number of incentives to manufacture and use wood siding products like this including -

- Don't need to use large trees. You can use scrap material from the lumber industry.
- Low cost
- Easy to install
- Dimensionally stable (no warps or splits)



There have been problems with some of these products and class action law suits have come and gone while some are still ongoing. The fundamental problem is that manufactured wood products do not have the same damage tolerance as real wood planks. For example, if you don't maintain the siding, wood planks may survive just fine while manufactured wood siding will swell or delaminate and fall apart. Homeowners claim the product is defective while the manufacturers claim that the product was not installed or maintained properly.

Hardboard Siding

Hardboard siding is made of particles of wood. The particles are mixed with adhesives and then compressed and heated to form sheet or plank material. The result is a dense material that is shaped into a plank finish that looks like real wood siding. An example is Masonite hardboard siding.

OSB Siding

OBS stands for **O**riented **S**trand**b**oard. OSB is made of strands or wafers of wood in which the wafers are aligned in such a way that strength and stiffness is maximized. The wood strands are mixed with binders and glues and then compressed and formed into a plank finish that looks like real wood siding. An example of OSB wood siding is Inner-Seal® siding by Louisiana-Pacific. This particular brand of OSB wood siding has a wax impregnated paper coating and is distinguished by a periodic knot pattern pressed into the surface. The knot pattern is about 2-1/4 inch diameter and appears in a random manner.

Maintenance

If you have manufactured wood siding, don't panic. The key is good maintenance. Focus on the edges, joints and wall penetrations. For example, the butt joints where the wood was cut must be well sealed. The siding should be painted and caulked regularly. Check with the manufacturers instructions. In many cases, manufacturers are recommending painting every three years.

Keep sources of water away from the siding. For example -

- Check roof gutters for proper operation. Repair leaks promptly. Make sure the downspouts discharge away from the home.
- Trim vegetation away from the wall to allow air circulation and proper drying.
- Make sure the siding is above grade, eight inches is ideal. Any modifications to your landscaping should give proper consideration to clearance. Where siding meets a roof surface, such as siding on a dormer, make sure siding does not touch the roof. There should be at least a one inch gap.

Check for Damage

Look for problems such as swelling or delamination or chunks of material falling off. If you do see damage, the problem area should be repaired and sealed and painted promptly. You may wish to do some research to identify if there is any recourse or money available through a class action settlement to help pay for repairs. Most of these settlements are finished now so don't get your hopes up.



OSB pattern