

HOW TO PROPERLY INSTALL POLYMERIC SIDING AND SOFFIT IN COASTAL AREAS

Current codes regulate coastal areas and place stringent performance requirements on cladding installed in these areas. Polymeric products are a great choice because of their innate ability to handle more extreme coastal conditions. In this guide, we've provided tips for installing this high performance siding and soffit in these unique coastal areas.



UNDERSTANDING THE USE OF POLYMERIC SIDING AND SOFFIT IN HIGH-WIND REGIONS

These updates will help you stay compliant and achieve the highest performance in coastal regions:

- The design pressure rating reflects the highest wind application for which the siding is suitable and allows building code officials in high-wind regions¹ to determine the appropriate siding and soffit to install
- Vinyl siding, insulated vinyl siding, and polypropylene siding products have a design pressure rating specified through product code compliance reports and literature
- Vinyl soffit in high-wind regions¹ need to exhibit a proper design pressure rating
- Vinyl siding and insulated vinyl siding products designed for use in high-wind regions¹ typically have reinforced nail hems (i.e., double or rolled-over nail hems versus single-nail hems)²
- Polypropylene siding in high-wind regions¹ typically needs to be installed 8" to 10" on center based on manufacturer's installation instructions

SIDING INSTALLATION TIPS

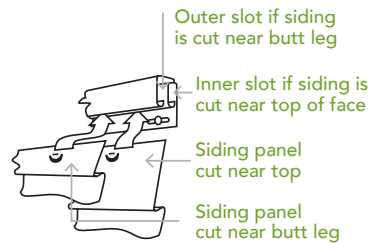
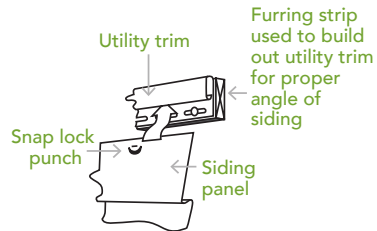
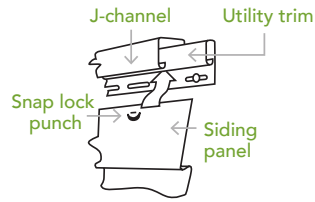
INSTALLING THE STARTER STRIP

- In normal wall applications, starter strips are required
- Vinyl siding, insulated vinyl siding, and polypropylene siding starter strips are unique and may not be used interchangeably so follow manufacturer specifications for each product category
- Do not use J-channel or other types of trim in place of a starter strip
- A starter strip not matched to the lock design of the siding could cause the bottom course to blow off, which can lead to product failure
- In special circumstances (for example, where a wall meets a pitched roof), the first course of the siding may need to be provided with a special connection; manufacturer product specification should be used for verification

INSTALLATION OF SIDING UNDER WINDOWS AND AT THE TOP OF WALLS

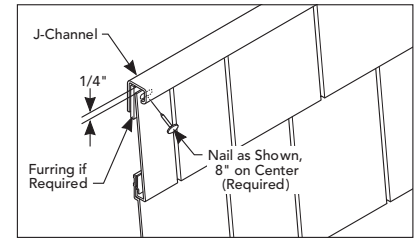
- Failure to use proper connection can create a weak point for the system
- Use of utility trim and punch-locked siding is critical under windows and at the top of the walls
- Using a snap lock punch (or other nail hole-creating tools), punch every 6" along the cut edge of vinyl siding and every 8" along the cut edge of polypropylene siding so the raised lug is on the outside face
- Any time the top lock has been removed from siding, utility trim should be used as a receiver to secure the punched-tab siding panel
- Furring may be required

FINISHING

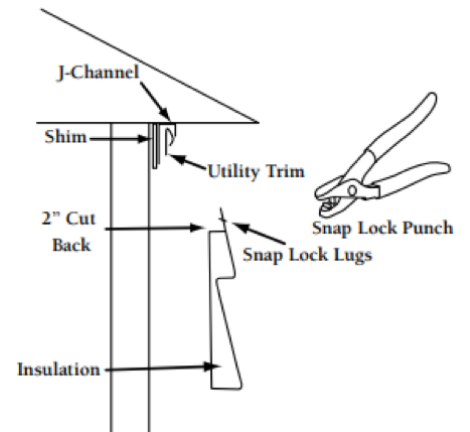


*Snap lock punches should be about 6" on center

Polypropylene Siding



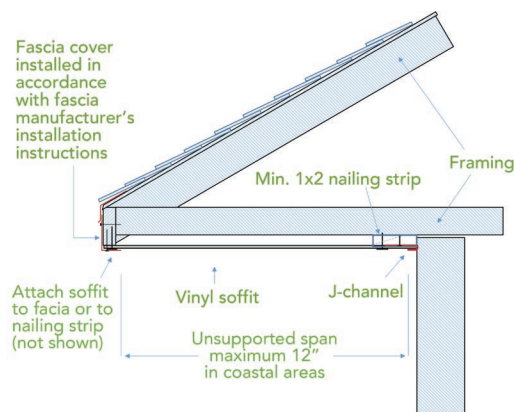
Insulated Vinyl Siding



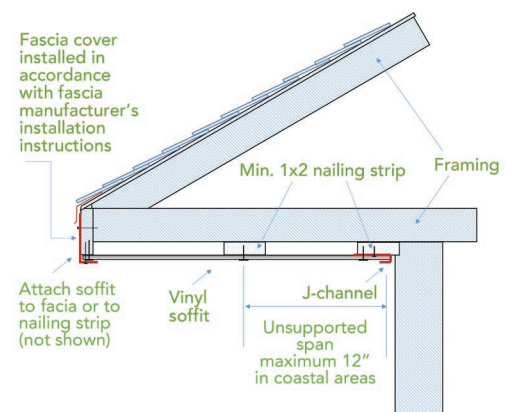
SOFFIT INSTALLATION TIPS

- The International Residential Code requires vinyl soffit be fastened at both fascia and wall ends
- In high-wind regions¹, where the unsupported span of soffit panels is greater than 12", intermediate nailing strips shall be provided
- Once vinyl soffit is installed, fascia covers can be installed into utility trim or behind the existing drip edge
- Always pre-drill holes into fascia and do not nail tight

Single Span Soffit Installation



Multi Span Soffit Installation



For additional information, please consult relevant building codes, manufacturer instructions, and the 2018 VSI Vinyl Siding Installation Manual at vinylsiding.org/installation.

1. High wind-regions are areas shown in the 2018 International Residential Code Figure R301.2(5)A&B.