

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

POLYPROPYLENE SIDING INDUSTRY AVERAGE



Polypropylene siding is produced in a variety of profiles, shapes, textures and colors.



The Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc. (VSI) is the trade association for manufacturers of vinyl and other polymeric siding and suppliers to the industry. VSI focuses on factual data and science, like Life Cycle Assessment, to ensure true material understanding/evaluation and actual impact on the environment.

Led by VSI, the industry's commitment to sustainability has resulted in durable, long-life products that offer excellent overall environmental performance compared to other exterior cladding, with recognized environmental benefits to help make and keep homes green.



ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION



Industry Averaged Polypropylene Siding (0.085" Single 7" Cedar Shake)

According to ISO 14025 and ISO 21930:2007

This declaration is an environmental product declaration (EPD) in accordance with ISO 14025 and ISO 21930. EPDs rely on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to provide information on a number of environmental impacts of products over their life cycle. Exclusions: EPDs do not indicate that any environmental or social performance benchmarks are met, and there may be impacts that they do not encompass. LCAs do not typically address the site-specific environmental impacts of raw material extraction, nor are they meant to assess human health toxicity. EPDs can complement but cannot replace tools and certifications that are designed to address these impacts and/or set performance thresholds – e.g., Type 1 certifications, health assessments and declarations, environmental impact assessments, etc. Accuracy of Results: EPDs regularly rely on estimations of impacts, and the level of accuracy in estimation of effect differs for any particular product line and reported impact. Comparability: EPDs are not comparative assertions and are either not comparable or have limited comparability when they cover different life cycle stages, are based on different product category rules or are missing relevant environmental impacts. EPDs from different programs may not be comparable.



PROGRAM OPERATOR	UL Environment	
DECLARATION HOLDER	Vinyl Siding Institute	
DECLARATION NUMBER	4787108620.103.1	
DECLARED PRODUCT	Industry Averaged Polypropylene Siding (0.085" Single 7" Cedar Shake)	
REFERENCE PCR	PCR for EPDs: Cladding System Products 2015	
DATE OF ISSUE	July 25, 2016	
PERIOD OF VALIDITY	5 years	
CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION	Product definition and information about material science	
	Information about basic material and the material's origin	
	Description of the product's manufacture	
	Indication of product processing	
	Information about the in-use conditions	
	Life cycle assessment results	
	Testing results and verifications	
The PCR review was conducted by:	Environment and Development Foundation	
	PCR Addendum: UL Environment	
This declaration was independently verified in accordance with ISO 14025 by Underwriters Laboratories <input type="checkbox"/> INTERNAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXTERNAL		
	Wade Stout, ULE EPM	
This life cycle assessment was independently verified in accordance with ISO 14044 and the reference PCR by:		
	Brad McAllister, WAP Sustainability Consulting	

This EPD conforms with ISO 21930:2007



Product Description

In this declaration, an industry-wide average of polypropylene siding with a 0.085 inch thickness in a single seven-inch cedar shake profile is documented. The following manufacturers have participated in this study.

- American Original Building Products
- Associated Materials, Inc.
- CertainTeed Corporation
- Novik, Inc.
- Ply Gem Siding Group

The results in this declaration are representative for the United States and Canada. The declared unit for this study is 100 square feet (or one square) of installed polypropylene siding with a 50-year service life, with a weight of 71.3 pounds, or 32.4 kilograms.

Product Description

Polypropylene siding is an exterior cladding product offered in a diverse selection of colors and textures used to assist remodelers, builders, designers and architects in customizing their new construction and renovation designs. Polypropylene siding provides textured, durable cedar planks and shakes imitations which are designed to increase the durability over swelling, rotting, finish degradation and insect infestation. With the ability to withstand high winds and resist heat, cold and moisture, polypropylene siding retains the original appearance and performance capabilities over time.

Delivered with easy-to-recycle packaging, such as on wood pallet frames with cardboard or plastic wrap, polypropylene siding is purchased ready for installation. Installation only requires nails or screws and is easy to install as long as the contractor is trained in proper installation techniques using the VSI Vinyl Siding Installation Manual and follows the manufacturer's instructions.

Technical Information

Polypropylene siding produced by VSI member companies are produced according to the standard ASTM D7254, *Standard Specification for Polypropylene (PP) Siding*. The following information applies to polypropylene siding:

Table 1 - Polypropylene Siding Technical Information

Name	Value	Unit
Length	12	ft
Width	0.583	ft
Thickness	0.085	in
Density	64.30	lb/ft ³



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Market Placement / Installation Requirements

Polypropylene siding is produced according to the following standards:

- ASTM D7254 Standard Specification for Polypropylene (PP) Siding
- ASTM D7856-15a Standard Specification for Color and Appearance Retention of Solid and Variegated Color Plastic Siding Products using CIELab Color Space (optional)

Base Materials / Ancillary Materials

Polypropylene is produced from the propylene monomer, which can be produced from several sources such as natural gas or crude oil. There are multiple processes in the industry used to polymerize propylene into polypropylene. Polypropylene siding uses a polypropylene mix which contains a calcium carbonate filler with other additives and pigments.

Table 2 - Polypropylene Siding Formulation

Constituent	% in Siding
Polypropylene	85%
Calcium Carbonate	12%
Pigments and Additives	3%

Manufacturing

To produce polypropylene siding, polypropylene compound beads are melted and injected into molds derived from actual cedar shakes. The polymer cures into the shape from the mold. Various pigments can be added for color variations. Polypropylene siding manufacturing is an extremely efficient injection molding process requiring relatively low inputs of energy and water and the ability to immediately return scrap and off-specification materials (regrind) directly into the manufacturing process results in virtually no manufacturing waste.

Environmental and Health Considerations During Manufacturing

Most polypropylene siding manufacturers have integrated closed-loop water systems which save millions of gallons of water each year per facility. Recycling programs are implemented in many manufacturer's facilities to improve upon resource efficiency and divert waste from landfills.

Packaging

Polypropylene siding is commonly packaged using wood frames to protect the siding in transport. Cardboard may also be used to protect the siding. Cardboard is recyclable in most infrastructure recycling networks throughout North America.



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Product Installation

Installation of siding is done primarily by manual labor. Nails or screws can be used to install the siding; nails are more common and would typically be the type installed by hand. Installation is modeled for nails placed 41 cm (16 in) on center; nail use is 0.0024 kg (0.0053 lb) per 0.09 m² (per ft²) of siding. Installation waste with a mass fraction of 5% is assumed, and this waste is assumed to go to a landfill.

While sheathing, weather resistive barriers, and other ancillary materials are required to complete the exterior wall system, these materials are not included in the system boundaries.

VSI has developed a certification program for polypropylene siding installers. Certified Polypropylene Siding Installers have at least two years of installation experience and have demonstrated knowledge of proper installation techniques. This program follows the ASTM D4756 standard for the Standard Practice for Installation of Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Siding and Soffit.

Use Considerations

No routine maintenance is required to prolong the lifetime of the product, although cleaning is recommended to maintain appearance. Cleaning would normally be done with water and household cleaners.

Environmental and Health Considerations during Use

Polypropylene siding does not require painting, staining or caulking during installation and only requires periodic cleaning with mild soap and water.

Reference Service Life

The product is assumed to have a useful life of 50 years as many manufacturers provide warranties of 50 years or longer. No routine maintenance is required to prolong the lifetime of the product, although cleaning is recommended to maintain appearance. Cleaning would normally be done with water and mild household cleaners.

Recycling and Energy Recovery

Polypropylene siding is completely recyclable, however the infrastructure to recycle this material may not be available in most regions across North America.

Waste-to-heat energy recovery can also utilize polypropylene siding at the end of its useful service life to produce electricity. While recycling polypropylene siding into new products is the preferred method of disposal, using this material in waste-to-energy facilities with regulated temperature controls can be used to reduce waste at the end of the product's waste.

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Disposal

Polypropylene siding is completely recyclable; however, the infrastructure to recycle this material may not be available in most regions across North America. Therefore, polypropylene siding is most commonly disposed of in municipal or construction and demolition solid waste streams at the end of the product's service life. This study assumes that 20% of the products get incinerated in waste-to-heat energy recovery facilities and the remaining 80% are landfilled.

Additional Information

For more information, please visit www.polypropylenesiding.org or contact the Vinyl Siding Institute at vsinfo@vinylsiding.org or 202-587-5100.

Life Cycle Assessment

Declared Unit / Functional Unit

The declared unit for this study is 100 square feet (or one square) in a 0.085 inch thick, single seven inch cedar shake profile. The reference service life is 50 years.

System Boundary

The system boundary is cradle-to-grave with all life cycle stages through Modules A to C have been considered.

Table 3 - Description of the System Boundary

Product			Construction Installation		Use							End-of-Life				Benefits of loads beyond the system boundary		
Raw Material Extraction and Processing	Transport	Manufacturing	Transport	Construction/ Installation	Use	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Operational Energy Use	Operational Water Use	De-Construction/ Demolition	Transport	Waste Processing	Disposal	Reuse	Recovery	Recycling
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D	D	D
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	MND	MND	MND

Estimates and Assumptions

The product is assumed to have a useful life of 50 years as many manufacturers provide warranties of 50 years or longer. This study assumes 5% scrap is generated during installation and that 20% of the products at the end of life



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are incinerated in waste-to-heat energy recovery facilities and the remaining 80% are landfilled.

Cut-off Criteria

This EPD is in compliance with the cut-off criteria. No known components and materials were omitted from the LCA.

Software and Background Data

SimaPro v8.02 Software System for Life Cycle Engineering, an internationally recognized LCA modeling software program, was used for life cycle impact assessment modeling. Background and secondary datasets were modeled using the US LCI database, developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, as well as the ecoinvent v3 database, which is developed by the Swiss Centre for Life Cycle Inventories. Secondary data on polypropylene resin was used from the latest update of the US LCI database, which includes primary polypropylene manufacturing data collected in 2009.

Data Quality

Data used for this study is as current as possible. Data sets used for calculations are within the last 10 years for generic data and within the last calendar year for manufacturer-specific primary data. All data sets are representative of the US and Canada, where appropriate. The national US electricity grid and Canadian electricity grid have been modeled using a weighted average based on production and location of polypropylene siding facilities. This data is considered representative of the entire North American industry average for polypropylene siding.

Period under Consideration

Primary data for this study was collected for the calendar year 2015. Primary data includes formulations, manufacturing energy and water consumption, as well as waste generation. Water treatment chemicals, cooling tower treatment chemicals and other ancillary materials are included in the scope of this study.

Allocation

Allocation was conducted per total production by mass at each participating facility for the period under consideration. A weighted average based on production totals between manufacturers was conducted.

LCA Results

Report results based on characterization factors from the US EPA Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI 2.1 impact categories). Impact categories taken from the University of Leiden (CML) methodology are optional and shall only be reported for EPDs used outside of North America.

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Table 4 - Description of the System Boundary

Part A- Description of the system boundary

Product			Construction Installation		Use							End-of-Life				Benefits of loads beyond the system boundary		
Raw Material Extraction and Processing	Transport	Manufacturing	Transport	Construction/ Installation	Use	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Operational Energy Use	Operational Water Use	De-Construction/ Demolition	Transport	Waste Processing	Disposal	Reuse	Recovery	Recycling
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D	D	D
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	MND	MND	MND



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Table 5 - Life Cycle Impact Assessment Results

Part B- Life Cycle Impact Assessment Results												
Functional Unit: 100 square feet												
Part B.1 TRACI 2.1		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	Units
GWP	Global warming potential	5.66E+01	1.68E+00	5.14E+00	1.09E+00	7.80E-01	4.79E-01	0.00E+00	4.16E-02	0.00E+00	1.13E+01	kg CO ₂ Eq.
ODP	Depletion potential of the stratospheric ozone layer	3.33E-06	7.67E-08	1.48E-07	4.17E-11	5.60E-08	2.90E-08	0.00E+00	1.59E-12	0.00E+00	3.10E-07	kg CFC 11 Eq.
AP	Acidification potential	3.14E-01	1.45E-02	3.96E-02	6.53E-03	4.27E-03	2.46E-03	0.00E+00	2.49E-04	0.00E+00	2.71E-02	kg SO ₂ Eq.
EP	Eutrophication potential	5.45E-02	1.40E-03	5.54E-03	3.64E-04	3.35E-03	2.08E-03	0.00E+00	1.39E-05	0.00E+00	1.79E-02	kg N Eq.
POCP	Photochemical ozone creation potential	2.44E+00	4.12E-01	3.24E-01	1.79E-01	3.73E-02	2.93E-02	0.00E+00	6.81E-03	0.00E+00	2.75E-01	kg O ₃ Eq.
ADPF	Abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources	1.79E+02	2.97E+00	5.51E+00	1.97E+00	6.91E-01	3.63E-01	0.00E+00	7.50E-02	0.00E+00	3.13E+00	MJ surplus energy
Part B.2 CML		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	Units
GWP	Global warming potential	4.56E+01	2.31E+00	4.64E+01	3.49E+00	7.91E-01	4.79E-01	0.00E+00	6.00E-02	0.00E+00	1.64E+01	kg CO ₂ Eq.
ODP	Depletion potential of stratospheric ozone layer	6.72E-06	2.36E-07	4.96E-07	1.32E-10	4.59E-08	2.22E-08	0.00E+00	2.27E-12	0.00E+00	3.16E-07	kg CFC-11 Eq.
AP	Acidification potential	1.02E+00	1.86E-02	4.09E-01	1.72E-02	4.56E-03	2.31E-03	0.00E+00	2.96E-04	0.00E+00	4.01E-02	kg SO ₂ Eq.
EP	Eutrophication potential	2.09E-02	4.48E-03	2.25E-02	3.05E-03	1.62E-03	1.14E-03	0.00E+00	5.24E-05	0.00E+00	1.23E-02	kg (PO ₄) ³⁻ Eq.
POCP	Photochemical ozone creation potential	5.23E-02	5.84E-04	2.49E-02	7.93E-04	2.78E-04	7.57E-04	0.00E+00	1.36E-05	0.00E+00	1.66E-03	kg ethane Eq.

All use phase stages have been considered and only maintenance (B2) contains non-zero environmental impacts, which is reported above.



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Table 6 - Use of Resources

Part C- Use of Resources													
Part C Resource Use		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	Total	Units
PERE	Use of RENEWABLE primary energy excluding the RENEWABLE primary energy used as raw materials	1.06E+03	3.34E+01	6.87E+02	4.76E+01	1.15E+01	5.41E+00	0.00E+00	8.19E-01	0.00E+00	9.01E+01	1.93E+03	MJ (LHV)
PERM	Use of RENEWABLE primary energy resources used as raw materials	1.31E+03	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	1.31E+03	MJ
PERT	Use of NON-RENEWABLE primary energy excluding the NON-RENEWABLE primary energy resources used as raw materials	2.37E+03	3.34E+01	6.87E+02	4.76E+01	1.15E+01	5.41E+00	0.00E+00	8.19E-01	0.00E+00	9.01E+01	3.24E+03	MJ
PENRE	Use of NON-RENEWABLE primary energy excluding the NON-RENEWABLE primary energy resources used as raw materials	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ
PENRM	Use of NON-RENEWABLE primary energy as raw materials	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ
PENRM	Total use of NON-RENEWABLE primary energy	4.58E+00	3.27E-01	6.04E+01	0.00E+00	3.42E-01	1.09E+01	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	3.35E+00	7.99E+01	MJ
SM	Use of secondary materials	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	kg
RSF	RENEWABLE secondary fuels	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ
NRSF	Use of NON-RENEWABLE secondary fuels	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ
FW	Use of fresh water resources	3.68E+01	2.17E+00	9.06E+00	0.00E+00	2.46E+00	6.60E-01	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	2.11E+01	7.23E+01	m ³

All use phase stages have been considered and only maintenance (B2) contains non-zero environmental impacts, which is reported above.



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Part D- Output Flows and Waste Categories

Part D Waste		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	Total	Units
HWD	Disposed-of-hazardous WASTE	6.75E-01	4.37E-05	1.93E-02	0.00E+00	2.91E-05	9.25E-06	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	2.70E+01	2.76E+01	kg
NHWD	Disposed-of non-hazardous WASTE	2.26E+00	2.21E-01	7.25E-01	0.00E+00	5.20E+00	6.11E-02	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	1.91E-04	8.47E+00	kg
RWD	Disposed-of Radioactive WASTE	5.28E-05	1.17E-05	7.94E-05	0.00E+00	1.27E-05	4.90E-06	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	1.62E-04	kg
CRU	Components for reuse	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	kg
MFR	Materials for recycling	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	kg
MET	Materials for energy recovery	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	kg
EEE	Exported electrical energy (waste to energy)	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ
EET	Exported thermal energy (waste to energy)	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	MJ

All use phase stages have been considered and only maintenance (B2) contains non-zero environmental impacts, which is reported above.

LCA Interpretation

The production stage (raw materials through manufacturing) is the largest driver of the life cycle of polypropylene siding. The raw materials stage is the primary driver of the production cycle. Maintenance and end-of-life stages of polypropylene siding have very minimal influence on the overall life cycle.



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References

- ISO 21930: Sustainability in building construction – Environmental declaration of building products
- EPA, Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI)
- FTC Part 260, Green guides
- (ILCD, 2010) Joint Research Commission, 2010, ILCD Handbook: General Guide for Life Cycle Assessment
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- ISO 14025:2006 *Environmental labels and declarations – Type III environmental declarations – Principles and procedures*
- ISO 14040:2006 *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework*
- ISO 14044:2006 *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines*
- ASTM D7254 Standard Specification for Polypropylene (PP) Siding
- ASTM D7856-15a *Standard Specification for Color and Appearance Retention of Solid and Variegated Color Plastic Siding Products using CIELab Color Space*. 2015 (optional certification)

LCA Development

This EPD and corresponding LCA were prepared by Sustainable Solutions Corporation of Royersford, Pennsylvania.



Contact VSI

For more information, please visit www.polypropylenesiding.org or contact the Vinyl Siding Institute at vsiinfo@vinylsiding.org or 202-587-5100.