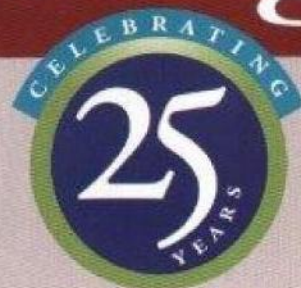


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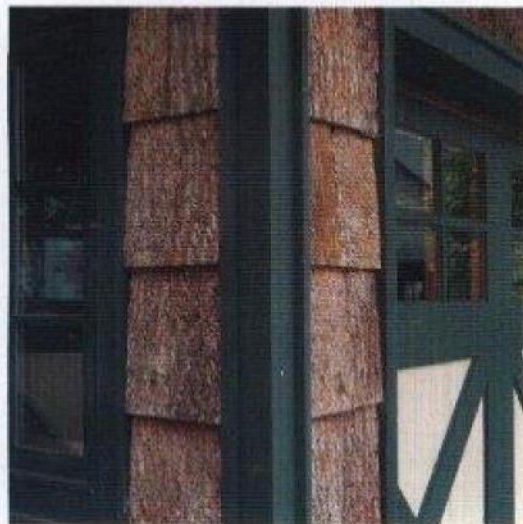


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BARK: IT'S NOT JUST FOR TREES ANYMORE

POPLAR BARK SIDING

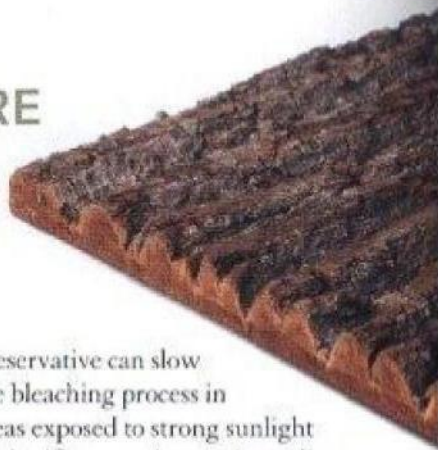
- Manufactured by Highland Craftsmen Inc.
- 828-765-9010; www.highlandcraftsmen.com
- Cost: \$5.75 to \$7.25 per sq. ft.



Tired of looking at the same old siding choices? Then maybe it's time to branch out to something different: bark siding.

For more than a decade, Highland Craftsmen has been converting bark that otherwise would be scrap from lumber harvesting into beautifully distinctive siding. After it's removed from downed poplar trees, the bark is culled, flattened, and kiln-dried. The drying process stabilizes the bark and, as a bonus, kills insects without the use of chemicals. Depending on thickness, the bark is sorted into two grades of shingles that can vary in width from 4 in. to 4 ft.

The manufacturer provides clear guidance on the bark-siding installation process. Bark requires no maintenance, although use of a wood



preservative can slow the bleaching process in areas exposed to strong sunlight or significant moisture. According to Highland Craftsmen, properly installed bark siding can last 75 years.

If you get hooked on the siding, you don't have to leave that tree sensation outdoors. Highland Craftsmen complements its bark-house style with highly individualized trim and furniture that's created from twigs, poles, and logs.

Andy Beasley works on his house in Colorado.

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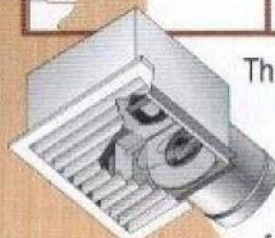
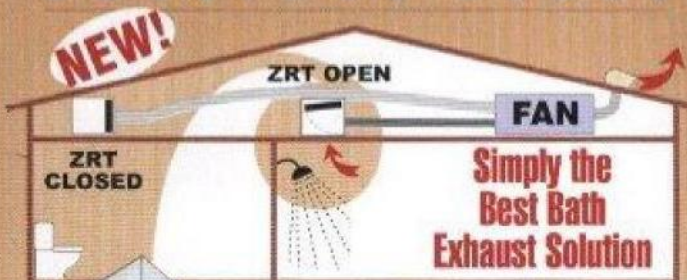
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