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Posted by [Rickk Miller](#) on Aug 5, 2015 in [Home Help](#) | [0 comments](#)



Installing new siding is a major decision, costing the average homeowner close to \$10,000 per home. But the cost proves to be worth it as it boasts a near [80% return on ROI](#) over the lifetime of the house, mainly because of the uplift it will give the home in value if you ever intend to sell. With the many materials, profiles, and colors to select you will first want to research which material is right for you. These days being environmentally friendly is more and more common, and eco-friendly home improvement is now mainstream. We will take a look at the pros and cons of 3 of the most popular types of siding when you want to go green.

Brick Siding

When you think of brick you earth comes to mind as its natural makeup is from water, clay, and shale. This is a popular choice amongst homeowners that want to go green as brick is extremely durable with little maintenance. No worry about water damage or insect infestation either making its alternative like wood more of a hassle to upkeep. Brick is also a renewable resource since it is mainly clay and water with an unlimited supply. Today, brick veneer is replacing traditional brick being more lightweight and easier to install. However, this somewhat defeats the purpose of [eco-friendly siding](#), being made from synthetic materials.

One negative aspect of brick siding is the manufacturing process takes to produce each brick requires tremendous energy in the form of heat. Most types of brick are heated to over 2,000F in the production process consuming lots of energy and fuel. There are some companies working to offset this energy-hungry process. One company, Calstar, claims to make bricks at only a fraction of the energy used, reducing tons of CO2

emission, making it a greener alternative than traditional brick. The materials it uses are fly ash, water, and sand.

Stone Siding

Stone siding is timeless and majestic giving your home natural beauty with unmatched durability. Stone can last more than a lifetime and if installed properly will continue for generations to come. Though this is quite abundant in supply it is a non-renewable commodity. One good thing about real stone, instead of the imitation stone, is that it requires no maintenance or treatment before or after installation.

The harvesting and procuring of the material is an intense process, having to secure rights to mine the material from the earth. Heavy equipment and machinery adds to all this labor. It will be important to source your stone locally as the transportation of this heavy material requires lots of energy.

Understand that stone siding is the most expensive type of material you can choose and the cost can be astronomical for a large home mainly due to all the heavy lifting and stone extraction process. There are a handful of tools to [estimate siding prices](#), giving you a rough budget to have in mind.

Wood Siding

Wood is considered green by its very essence and definition. It covers the 3 major components of green being sustainable, recyclable, and renewable. It comes in leaving the lowest economic footprint according to [BEES](#), Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability.

There are a handful of wood types of options to choose from with cedar being the most popular as well as, redwood, fir, pine, and spruce. Wood is also very lightweight making installation a breeze consuming less energy and labor than its counterparts.

One thing to keep in mind about wood is that you will always want to source locally and from a company that harvests responsibly. 2 organized bodies that certify wood sourcing are [SFI](#) (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) and [FSC](#) (Forest Stewardship Council). This could help curtail the argument against wood as being eco-friendly mainly due to the deforestation of the land.

Other alternative options involving wood siding are reclaimed barn and bark siding. Reclaimed barn siding is just that, claiming old unwanted barns for the wood, treating it and then using it for exterior siding. Bark siding is another popular option that screams eco-friendly, with poplar bark being the most popular. One such popular company is [Barkhouse](#), located out of North Carolina and doing business since 1990. Bark shingles highly decrease the impact of construction and are a sustainable viable option for wood siding, playing a true cradle to cradle material.

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