

Bark House® Siding Installation Guide

For the Professional Siding Installer

Wall Prep

A wood sheathing is necessary as the substrate for bark siding. The thickness should be at least 1/2".

If house wrap is used, it should be applied to the wall sheathing prior to installing the bark shingles.

For standard grade shingles, all window and door trim should be at least 1 5/8" thick or it should be back-banded to 1 5/8". For premium grade shingles, trim thickness allowance should be 2 1/2". This ensures that the lapped shingles do not protrude beyond the trim.

Make sure all necessary metal flashing is in place.



Applying the Bark

Begin with a 3/4" rot resistant wood kicker strip to give the first row the proper tilt. Apply 30 lb. roofing felt equal to the height of bark shingles over the strip. In exposed high weather areas, we prefer to use an adhesive backed ice dam membrane to seal the edges of any trim to the roofing felt. Begin installing the bark shingles. After the shingles are applied, any exposed excess membrane should be trimmed away. This technique ensures a lateral water proof seal between the bark and trim and avoids the use of unsightly caulking. Make sure that the bark siding makes no ground contact. Elevate the bark siding at least 1 1/2" above any roofing or decking and use flashing.

After chalking off the next course, apply the roofing felt to the chalked lap line.

We recommend a minimum 2" lap for shingles but you may adjust this to better visually coordinate the row lines to the trim or other siding materials. A full shingle lap may sometimes be specified or desired for the purest look or protection in extreme conditions.

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Building requirements for cladding attachments may vary at your local inspections office, so have your installer check for allowances.

The traditional way to apply bark shingles is with bright or coated framing nails. The nail heads will rust and blend with the bark. Poplar bark is not greatly acidic, so nail decomposition will not occur as a result of bark contact. Some building departments require a galvanized or stainless nail. Color coordinated rust resistant nails may be used if you choose. If you are using nail guns, we prefer a full round head, ring or spiral shank, gun nail. For Standard Grade, use at least a 2 3/8" nail. For Premium Grade, use at least a 3" nail.

Nail Pattern

Each shingle should be nailed 1" from the bottom, no more than 1" from each lateral edge, and at a spacing not to exceed 3" across the field. For all exposures greater than 11" a second row of nails should be applied half way up the exposure. Ensure the nail placement is on the ridges and that they are not countersunk. Not properly nailing the bark can lead to lateral separation, and curl. If mechanicals are roughed-in prior to bark installation, care must be taken to ensure nail penetration through sheathing does not puncture them.

Corner Treatments



For outside corners, there are two application techniques.

A bark wrapped corner uses an alternating wrap pattern.

Wood corner styles are another method.



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Outside Corners

As you approach the corner, pick a suitable width shingle that is slightly wider than the distance to the corner. Hold the shingle in place and mark the top flush with sheathing. Mark the bottom flush with the outside of the shingle it is lapping over. Connect the marks

with a straight line and cut. The cut side will now be on a slight angle. Nail this shingle in place and work the other side to the corner. Again, pick a shingle wider than needed to

complete the corner. Hold it in place lapping past the corner shingle you just installed. Scribe the back side, cut, position and nail. You may need to occasionally dress the corner with a block plane to even up any excess overlap. This corner technique provides a slip joint that allows material to expand and contract without opening up a crack. Reverse the order of application on the next row to achieve the alternating wrap pattern.

Inside Corners

For inside corners, wood styles may also be used or you can use the following fitted corner technique. First, fit the bark of one of the sides tightly into the corner. On the other side, nail a shingle at a random distance from the corner. Measure the top and bottom dimension for the missing corner piece and add ¼" to the top and bottom measurement. You will be able to drive this wedge down into place creating a tight corner fit.

Sealers

If your siding faces high u.v., wind-driven rain, or extreme damp conditions, you can consider using a sealer. A penetrating wood preservative with low wax content is recommended. Your local paint dealer can assist you in the best choice, and application technique.

Other Considerations

Because a bark shingle is not perfectly flat, you may occasionally find after fastening the shingle to the wall that its leading edge may move out of plumb. If the next shingle does not butt tightly and remain on the chalk line, a block plane will quickly adjust that shingle to fit. Poplar bark will plane easily.

If shingles must be cut into small pieces, pre drilling may be necessary in order to keep the shingle from splitting.

Remember to paint/stain all trim that comes in contact with the bark siding before the siding is applied.

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