

# FONTENOT

## CONTRACTING COMPANY

### **SIDING**

There are many advantages to installing new siding. Updating the appearance, increasing the future resale value and decreasing maintenance costs are just some of the benefits. Also, adding insulation under new siding provides a moisture barrier and can lower utility bills. There are many types of siding and this article provides information to help you make a choice that will be most suitable for your home.

### **Fiber Cement Siding**

Fiber-cement siding is a good alternative for residents who wish to have the look of wood without the costs and hassles associated with having it. It is notable for its durability; it is termite-resistant, water-resistant, non-combustible and typically comes with a 50 year warranty. Fiber-cement siding is made of cement, sand, and cellulose fiber that has been cured with pressurized steam to increase the strength and dimensional stability. The fiber provides reinforcement to prevent cracking. Fontenot Contracting recommends HardiePlank Lap Siding and HardieShingle Siding. Below you will find information about each as well as a pros and cons list regarding fiber cement siding.

#### ***HardiePlank Lap Siding***

HardiePlank lap siding is one of the most popular brands of siding and can be found in over 4 million homes. It is known for its strength, beauty and durability. It is recommended for being able to withstand New England Weather. Hardie cement siding comes in a variety of looks and textures. HardiePlank lap siding comes with a 30-year nonprorated, transferable, limited warranty.

#### ***HardieShingle Siding***

HardieShingle siding has the look of cedar shingles but not the rotting, cracking or splitting. It is a primary siding or can complement other types of James Hardie siding. It is also recommended for its weather durability. Hardie Shingle siding is available in a variety of decorative edges as well as in different widths to appeal to your particular siding demands. It has a 30-year nonprorated, transferable, limited warranty.

Fiber Cement Siding Pros and Cons

PROS	CONS
Can be made to mimic just about any other siding material, including wood lap boards, cedar shingles, and wood shake siding. Lots of color options	Fiber cement siding requires more planning, a larger labor force, and takes longer to install due to its composition. Fiber cement siding weighs about 300 pounds per square (100 square feet), compared to 60 to 70 pounds per square for vinyl siding- more intense installation and labor process
According to Smart Homeowner.com, "this type of siding is completely rot and insect resistant, and can even handle the corrosive environment of salt spray near the ocean."	Maintenance- Fiber cement siding has to be re-painted periodically.
Most Hardie board siding comes with a 30-year, limited transferrable warranty.	Fiber cement runs about \$1,000 per square, or \$10 per square foot. In more practical terms, due to the increased labor demand that fiber cement siding requires, plan on spending about 40 percent more if you choose Hardie board siding over vinyl.
Fiber cement siding "is comprised of more than 90% sand and cement, making it inherently resistant to flames." Case in point, a St. Paul Minnesota house fire torched two fire trucks parked 60 feet away, but the fiber cement-clad home next door, 50 feet away, remained unscathed.	It requires painting every five to 10 years
Thicker than vinyl siding—resists impact better.	
Storm resistant and noncombustible	

## Vinyl Siding

Vinyl Siding is one of the most popular siding materials used; largely for its manageability and low maintenance. It is made of polyvinyl chloride, PVC. Vinyl siding is available in an assortment of colors, profiles and trim styles, which allows for a customized new look or one that complements the original appearance of the residence. The thickness of the vinyl material determines its durability and cost. Thicker vinyl will last longer and withstand damage better, but it is also more costly.

<b>PROS</b>	<b>CONS</b>
Vinyl never has to be painted and is generally less expensive than fiber cement	Vinyl is not as durable as fiber cement and is not as effective at simulating the look of real wood
It is also easier to replace individual pieces of vinyl siding if damage does occur. Vinyl is flexible and is the best choice for siding round buildings or other projects where bending the siding is necessary.	It is not available in as many siding styles as fiber cement
Doesn't have to be painted. If properly installed, the upkeep is minimal.	It can often be less durable than wood in extreme weather conditions. Very heavy and violent winds can penetrate under the siding and lift panels from the wall. Debris that is blown in the wind can puncture siding. It is also important to remember that when damage to vinyl siding occurs the entire panel will need to be replaced
It's made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), the same stuff that serves so ably in plumbing drain lines.	When exposed to the sun for prolonged periods of time, vinyl becomes brittle, and hail and other objects can easily damage it.
	While vinyl siding needs little maintenance to stay new looking, it can trap moisture. When moisture becomes trapped underneath siding panels, it can rot and cause mold and mildew to grow. This can become a breeding ground for insects. Also, if moisture is left untreated, the dampness can seep through to the inside of the house causing damp walls. (moisture control)