

Wood Siding

Staff Letter - No Certificate Necessary:

1. Refurbishing of existing siding provided any repaired siding is the same material, has the same finish, and has the same exposure and dimension as the original.
2. Repainting siding with the same color.

Staff Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Repainting siding using a color on an approved color palette.

Commission Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Repainting siding with a color that is either not the current color or on an approved palette.
2. The use of "hardboard" as a replacement for or instead of wood siding.
3. Covering any significant existing wood siding or using new wood siding to cover up an original facade material.
4. Using any new wood siding that has an exposure, finish, or proportion different from the current or original.
5. Repair of existing siding provided any replacement siding is the same material, has the same finish, and has the same exposure and dimension as the original.

Recommended:

1. Unrestored wood siding may look beyond repair but is often in better condition than it looks. The following should be considered when repairing existing wood siding:
 - a) Retain all of the sound original wood siding.
 - b) Repair and retain split boards by nailing and/or gluing with waterproof glue.
 - c) Leave concave or convex boards as they are unless there is a problem. If necessary, repair by carefully inserting flat screws in predrilled holes and gradually tightening.
 - d) Putty all nail holes.
 - e) Rotten sections should be cut out using a saw, chisel or knife. The new piece to be inserted must match the original in size, profile, and dimensions. It may be a new wood board or a salvaged board.
 - f) Missing boards should be replaced with new or salvaged wood boards to match the original.
 - g) Siding should be primed and painted after being scraped of all loose paint and thoroughly cleaned.
2. Replacement is recommended when the original wood is:
 - a) Badly rotten.
 - b) Split (especially multiple breaks) and cannot reasonably be repaired.
 - c) Burned.
 - d) Missing.
3. Cementitious or hardboard siding may be used if the applicant can demonstrate that either the original siding is beyond repair or if the original siding is no longer in place on a façade. However, mixing cement board siding with wood siding on a façade is discouraged. Additionally, faux wood graining is discouraged when using cementitious or hardboard material.

Wood Siding (cont.)

Not Recommended:

1. Removal of original siding. It provides important physical evidence of a building's history and adds immeasurably to a building's historic character.
2. If it is covered with insul-brick or other material, do not assume the original siding will need total replacement. Assess the situation only after total removal of the covering material. Assessment based on partial removal may lead to the wrong conclusion.
3. If replacement of siding is justified, (partial or total) avoid using any material other than real wood with dimensions, profile, size and finish to match the original. The use of plywood, composite plywood panels, aluminum, vinyl, or other unnatural materials is highly discouraged. These products do not look, feel, wear, or age like the original.
4. It is neither necessary nor in many cases desirable to remove all old paint from wood. Methods to accomplish total removal of paint are damaging to a building's fabric and may present health risks and should be pursued with great care. The use of high-pressure water blasting (over 600 psi), sandblasting, rotary sanding or a blowtorch should be avoided.