

To Dos before start a siding project

v1 4-22-22

- 1) Will you be replacing windows or doors? Plan WELL in advance – they can take months to be delivered; but, it's highly desirable to have them done BEFORE residing if possible. You'll want the siding caulked to the casings so that the walls stay waterproof. (not the other way around)
- 2) Do you need to add any new exterior electrical outlets or additional lighting?
- 3) Do you want to relocate hose bibs or other plumbing fixtures outside the house?
- 4) Do you have items mounted to your walls that are no longer needed – i.e. old spotlights, old light or motion sensors, plant hangers
- 5) Remove all exterior decorative plaques, artwork, string lights, etc.
- 6) Do you have decorative fencing or railings that attach to your walls? If you don't want them, now's the time to remove or replace them.
- 7) You don't want rotted, soft wood siding behind the new siding. Do any boards need to be patched or replaced? Can you do it yourself or will you want the contractor to do it for you?
- 8) The contractors will be pounding on your walls. Anything hanging or mounted inside is liable to fall off your wall or shelving. TAKE CAUTION and move them before work starts.
- 9) Following are a list of questions that if brought up after you accept your quote, MIGHT result in something you don't like the looks of, or worse, it could be an extra cost to remove and resolve it.

Questions to ask siding contractor before signing contract

- 1) How do you handle soffits – parallel to ground or angled to follow roof trusses?
- 2) Do they provide venting in soffits for your attic? Do you need to do anything to open existing venting that might have been painted shut in the past? Is new venting screened against bugs?
- 3) What is installed behind the siding? Vapor barrier? Insulation? Nothing? (Code says nothing is required. Common logic is that fanfold insulation makes nice flat base but not needed over our T-111 siding. Also addn R-value of foil is negligible to non-existent.)

- 4) How far down the wall will my siding go? The further the better to protect the T-111 siding behind. Starter strips come in 2-1/2" and 3-1/2". Opt for the 3-1/2 if possible. (Good resource: <https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/vinyl-siding-installation-tips/>)
- 5) What will inside and outside corners look like? There are minimal and "super" corners available.
- 6) How do they trim around existing windows and doors? Is existing trim molding removed first? How do they prevent water from dripping down inside the siding and rotting the existing window frame?
- 7) Are you getting new gutters and downspouts with this project? Do you need them? Are gutter guards included in price/extra? Do they prevent pine needles?
- 8) Do any landscaping items need to be removed or relocated? Who is responsible for protecting bushes and plants during the project?
- 9) Can they install the siding behind your outside air conditioning condenser unit without removing it?
- 10) Decide if you will want to install any items later that need blocking or bracing before siding is done. Discuss supports that might need to be installed for plant hangers, shelving, large decorative wall hangings, etc.
- 11) Will they be removing and replacing gutters and downspouts, or will you want them to replace them? How close can they match the siding color, or will they need to be painted?
- 12) On the sides of our homes where there is a gable end, the T-111 siding at the gable overlaps the lower siding and sticks out roughly 9/16" further. How do they compensate for that? (Some feather it out and run the siding across it, while others prefer to put a horizontal molding at the overlap line and start another course of siding above it.)
- 13) If you have an existing fence, archway, or gate attached to your home, how will that be handled? Does it need to be removed and reinstalled? Will the fence be sided to match? How will it be capped?
- 14) Many contractors say they will cap your window mullions with aluminum, so you don't have to paint them. In theory, that's great, but many of the Schmitt windows do not have enough clearance to add a thickness of metal on either side, without scraping the surrounding material when the windows are cranked open or closed.

- 15) On our back decks, some homes have privacy walls at either side. Will they be sided as well? How are they capped? How do you handle the 2x4 railings attached to the fence, if applicable?
- 16) Will contractor remove and replace all items like exterior lighting, house numbers, flagpole brackets, plant hangers, etc. Most will use matching color, vinyl light blocks. Make sure you understand what they will do versus you having to do it after they leave.
- 17) If you are interested, have contractor show you how all these other items will be accommodated and what they will look like when the siding project is completed. Some can be removed and reinstalled over the siding, while others need to be worked around. The question to ask about each is...how do you waterproof that to prevent water from staying inside the wall behind my siding?

Exterior electrical outlets

Exterior water meter

Exterior electric meter

Gas meter

Exterior electrical outlets

Phone equipment box

Cable box

Hose bibs

Surface-mounted cabling/coax cables

Flagpole brackets – backing provided?

Condensate drain piping

Plant hangers – backing provided?

Keypads for garage door openers

Door jambs to garage door – solid protection?

Dryer vents