

A photograph of a house exterior showing horizontal siding and white window shutters. The image is a close-up, low-angle shot of a two-story house. The siding is a light-colored, horizontal lap siding. There are two windows visible, both with white shutters. The upper window is partially obscured by a balcony railing. The lower window is a double-hung window with a white frame. The shutters are white and have a decorative, paneled design. The house is set against a clear, light blue sky.

# Siding Installation

The siding protects the house against wind, rain, snow, sun, and other forces of nature. To successfully perform these tasks, the siding must be watertight and securely fastened in place.

Each type of siding typically has its own unique installation process, and each application requires the correct underlayment, fasteners, and nailing method. Siding installation can even vary between manufacturers' products. For example, vinyl shakes tend to have different nailing patterns and different locking mechanisms, depending on the manufacturer.

The projects in this section detail general installation of siding materials, but you may need to modify the instructions slightly to fit your particular project. Before jumping into the siding job, familiarize yourself with the entire installation process so you know what's in store. If you're also planning to install new soffits, complete the soffit project before starting on the siding (see page 175).

Without exception, the jobs will be much easier and can be completed quicker if you have a helper. This is especially true of siding materials that are difficult to manage by yourself, such as wood lap siding and log cabin siding. Having an assistant hand you materials also saves you trips up and down the ladder.

Siding your own house is one of the most gratifying home improvement projects. Your hard work will be highly visible to your neighbors and guests, and you'll feel a sense of accomplishment every time you look at your house.

Photo courtesy of Alcoa Home Exteriors, Inc.

# Types of Siding

The goal of any siding installation is to end up with a great-looking finish. The applications used to get there are as varied as the sidings themselves.

Siding is typically installed with each row overlapping the underlying row. For lap siding, the top piece rests over the top of the piece below. For vinyl, the overlapping piece snaps together with the preceding row. With brick, each row is placed directly on top of the underlying course.

Be sure you understand the application techniques for the type of siding you're installing, and be sure to use the recommended fasteners.

Photo courtesy of James Hardie® Siding Products



**Combining two types of siding** can enhance the curb appeal of your home. This house features stone and fiber cement siding.



Photo courtesy of James Hardie® Siding Products

**Lap siding** features panels in an overlapping pattern that create crisp, horizontal lines. The look has been a traditional favorite for homeowners. The panels are usually wood, fiber cement, or vinyl.



**Shakes and shingles** closely resemble each other, although shingles are thinner and smaller than shakes. Most authentic shakes and shingles are made of Western cedar.



Photo courtesy of Rocky Mountain Log Homes

**Log cabin siding** offers a rustic, rural look that has a broad appeal. Actual logs are used on some homes, while others use siding that mimics the look of log cabins.



Photo courtesy of James Hardie® Siding Products

**Vertical siding** can make homes appear taller by drawing the eye skyward. Board and batten is a popular vertical siding, and some vinyl sidings can also be installed vertically.



Photo courtesy of Vande Hey Raleigh

**Brick siding** is a durable exterior that doesn't require a lot of maintenance. Bricks are made of fired clay, and are available in a variety of colors, textures, and shapes.



Photo courtesy of La Habra Stucco

**Stucco siding** has an aesthetic appeal all its own. Because it's not installed in rows, it's one of the few sidings that doesn't have horizontal or vertical lines running through it.

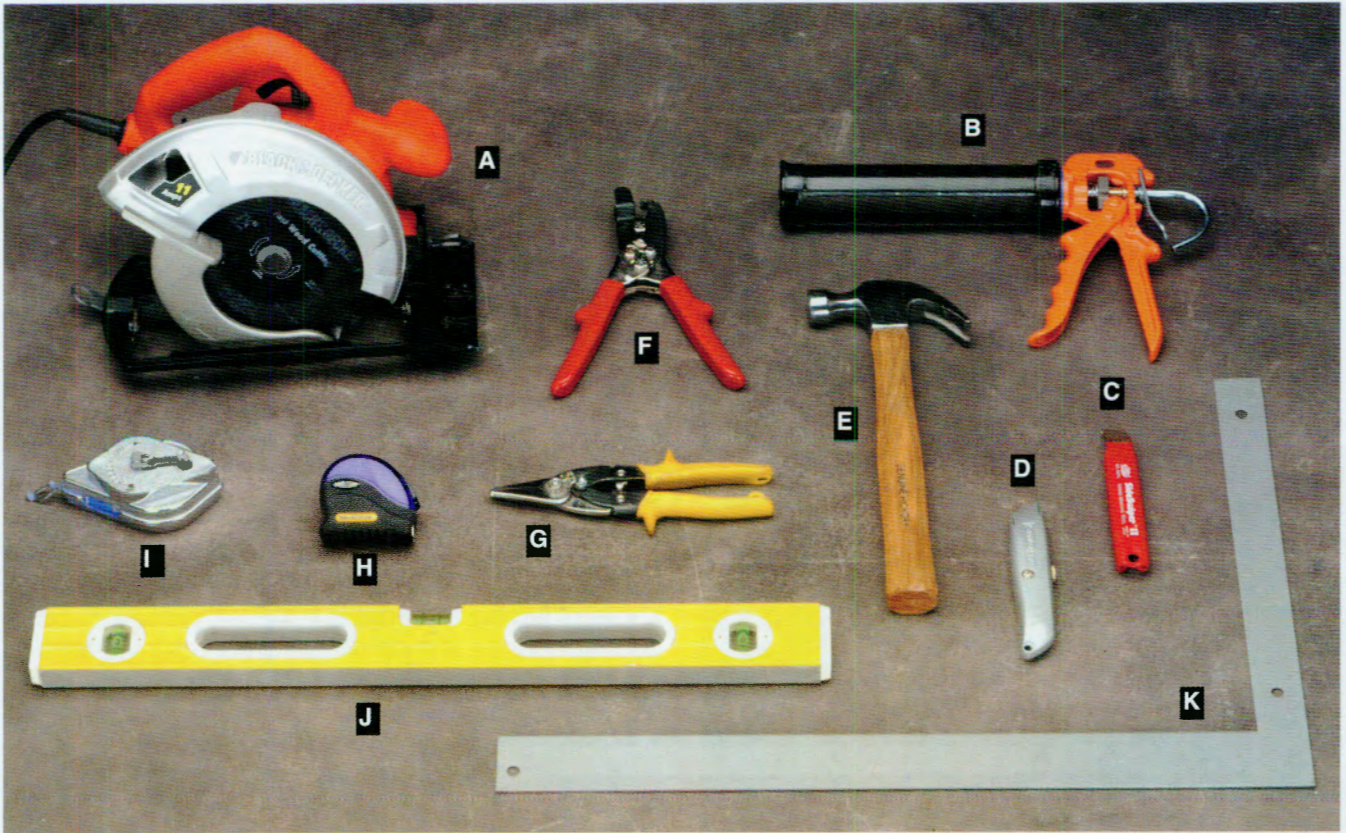
## Tools & Materials for Siding

Basic construction and remodeling tools are all you need for wood, fiber cement, and vinyl siding projects. If you don't have some of these cutting, measuring, or leveling tools, it's worthwhile

to buy them. They're not very expensive, and you'll get a lot of use out of them for other common home improvement and repair projects.



**Tools for wood and fiber cement siding** include: circular saw (A), miter saw (B), T-bevel (C), jig saw (D), level (E), coping saw (F), handsaw (G), utility knife (H), hammer (I), caulk gun (J), chalk line (K), folding tape measure (L), tape measure (M), and line level (N).



**Tools for vinyl siding** include: circular saw (A), caulk gun (B), zip tool (C), utility knife (D), hammer (E), nail slot punch (F), aviation snips (G), tape measure (H), chalk line (I), level (J), and framing square (K).



**Caulks for siding** include (from left): concrete and masonry silicone caulk, concrete sealant, acrylic latex caulk, acrylic latex caulk with silicone, and latex sealant.



**Underlayment materials** for siding include: house-wrap (A), felt paper (B), cap nails (C), hammer (D), hammer stapler (E), and staple gun and staples (F).