



Buyer's Guide to Vinyl Siding

Thank you for considering A&A Services for the installation of premium vinyl siding on your home. Our goal is to provide with the finest quality products and personal service to match.

You probably have many questions about vinyl siding. We believe that an educated customer will make the right choice, so we have created this guide to help you understand the product and the process.

Vinyl: Your Best Choice

In comparison to other exterior siding choices, vinyl is a great value. It's also a clear favorite for durability and low maintenance.

Advances in manufacturing techniques have resulted in vinyl siding that is stronger, with more impact resistance and improved long-term weathering properties. Manufacturers continue to refine characteristics that improve panel rigidity, wind resistance, and resistance to fading.

Maintenance for vinyl siding is also simple – occasional cleaning with soap and water keeps it looking like new.

Choosing a Siding Style

What color? Which style? These questions deal with the visual aspects of siding. Looking at small samples, there may appear to be little difference between profile choices. When installed on walls one or two stories high, the differences will be dramatic.

Traditional

Traditional, also called clapboard style, is the profile most often chosen by homeowners. Each “board” appears to overlap the one below it, creating the look of wood siding. Traditional panels set closer to the exterior wall for a slimmer profile.

Dutchlap

Dutchlap profiles are similar to bevel style, but with the addition of a sharply angled bevel directly underneath each “overlap.” This gives the siding softer shadow lines and a more distinctive look.

Board & Batten

If you're looking for a unique exterior accent that will give your home a casual, earthy look, Board & Batten is the style you want. Its rugged design, marked by vertical panels with a decorative overlap, gives Board & Batten excellent design flexibility. And its top-quality

performance features mean that you can count on its distinctive good looks for years to come.

Vertical Siding

Vertical Siding provides a solid exterior with a virtually seamless look. Vertical Siding can be used for whole house applications or to specific areas of your home's exterior – such as a gable ends, garage or a wall span with strong vertical lines. Vertical Siding provides a distinctive, clean look to the appearance of the completed job.

Specialty Siding

Specialty siding is formed to mimic shingle siding. Shakes siding gives the look of shingle siding with square-edged vertical lines and the texture of cedar. Scallops add a timeless wood-grain finish, with the romantic touch of soft, rounded edges. They can be used on an entire home or for accent on larger homes for a spectacular visual contrast.

The Quality of Your Siding

You want the best quality siding you can afford to wrap around your home. At A&A Services, we work with only the highest grade siding from the most reputable manufacturers.

Given the numerous vinyl siding choices on the market, it's difficult to distinguish clear differences in each one, but there are structural characteristics that can help you tell the merely adequate from the top performers. Here's what to look for:



A Grade
Above
Since 1982

A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Locking System

What it is: Joins two panels together. Enables the siding to stay firmly in place and resist lifting up in strong winds. Creates a rigid beam along the panel to help span wall imperfections.

What to look for: A properly designed locking system should always allow the panel to slide freely within the lock.

Nailing Hem

What it is: The top edge of a panel that's nailed to the wall.

What to look for: Elongated slots that allow the panel to slide on the nail and to expand or contract with weather extremes. For areas that experience high winds, insist on reinforced double hems designed to withstand hurricane-force winds.

Panel Thickness and Rigidity

Why it's important: Thick, rigid panels with double nail rails provide greater wind resistance, withstand dents and lie flatter and straighter against the wall.

What to look for: Optimum panel thickness should be .040" to .046" depending on style and design. Thinner gauge works well for stable climates; thicker gauge is recommended for areas with high winds and extreme temperature changes.

Finish and Profile

What it is: Finish refers to the texture of the panel. Typical finishes are brushstroke, woodgrain or cedar grain. Profile refers to the specific design and exposure size of a panel. Typical profiles are clapboard, board & batten, Dutch lap, vertical, and shingles and scallops.

What to look for: Both finish and profile are a matter of personal choice and your home's architectural style.

Panel Projection

What it is: Panel projection is a measure of the distance a siding panel extends out from the wall. Projection affects panel performance, rigidity, and shadow line.

What to look for: A projection to give the look and shadow line you desire.

Formulation and Chemistry

What it is: Formulation and chemistry refer to the ingredients that make up the vinyl as well as how it is formed.

What to look for: High grades of impact modifiers, premium stabilizers and high concentrations of titanium dioxide ensure the best impact resistance, weathering and color retention. High temperature fusion and postformulation are manufacturing methods that produce stronger panels.

Windload Pressure

What it is: Measurement of how well a panel can be expected to perform in high wind areas.

What to look for: Negative windload pressure rating which determines actual windload capacity. Positive windload tests are not a true measure of windload pressure.

Color Quality

Why it's important: Panels formulated with high quality ingredients retain color much longer and make matching panels during repairs or remodeling easier.

What to look for: Color that goes all the way through the panel. Avoid siding with a gray backing. Also avoid low quality fillers that can cause color fade and chalking.



A Grade
Above
Since 1982

A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

Working With Your Installer

No matter how good the quality of your siding material, the deciding factor in a successful job is the quality and experience of the installer you choose. Here are some “tests” to determine if your siding installer is qualified to do the job, and will be easy to work with:

- Is the installer open to discussion about my requirements?
- Does he offer design help and suggestions?
- Is he knowledgeable about the siding products including features, benefits, accessories and warranty?
- Does he carry the necessary licenses and insurance coverage?
- Can I talk with him easily?
- Will the installer provide a list of references?
- Is the installer certified by siding manufacturers?
- Does the installer have a good track record in the community?

Get it in Writing

Your installer should provide you with a written estimate that includes:

- Description of work to be done.
- Specific materials to be used including product names and order numbers.
- Price including all materials and labor.
- Payment schedule or financing information.
- Time schedule.
- Clean up, debris removal, condition of the worksite.
- Installer’s warranty policy or guarantee of work.
- Responsibility for permits if applicable.

Getting Started

The more information you can provide to your siding installer, the better your project is likely to go. Answers to the following questions will help you determine how much you want to spend on your project, select siding and explore financing.

1. How do you want your home to look?
Your research can include driving by similar homes in your community, visiting model homes, and collecting photos and sketches from remodeling and decorating publications. Consider color, texture and specialty materials as ways to disguise or enhance architectural details.

2. What’s your budget?
Typically, the longer you stay in your home, the greater the return on your home improvement investment.

3. How will you finance your project?
Investigate financing. Installers frequently have convenient financing programs available that are competitive with bank financing. Be sure to ask potential installers about this option.

The Installation Process

As far as disrupting your daily routine, installing new siding is about the easiest home improvement a homeowner can choose! The material won’t take up much space in the yard, its installation does not carry with it any noxious chemicals or messy substances, and it can be installed one wall at a time. Plus its application is very fast, and can sometimes be as fast as a week, depending on the size of the crew and the house.

Since your installer won’t need you to turn off the water or electricity to do their job, they can work outside without disruption to your daily flow. However, there are some ideas you might consider that will expedite your new siding.

First, make sure you talk with the person in charge about anything you think might be important. Walk around the house with the siding pro and ask him to tell you what he will be doing to your home. Make it clear that if something is not going to go to plan that he will tell you first just so everyone is on the same page.

Second, consider the daily needs of your siding contractors. If you live in a remote area, you might need to allow them access to a bathroom (otherwise they will have to drive somewhere every time nature calls, which just slows down the installation).



A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Work Process

The installation team often starts the day early, often right after sunrise. So be prepared for an early morning on the day your project is scheduled to begin.

In most cases, the insulation and siding can be installed right over your existing wooden clapboards or shakes. But in some cases demolition and removal of the existing siding is necessary. This can be a bit noisy.

The crew will work along one wall at a time, starting at the bottom and working their way up to the roof line. Siding panels and trim will be cut to size on site, to ensure a perfect fit. You'll be surprised how quickly your home will be transformed, as the new siding "marches" swiftly around the house!

At the end of every day, the crew will take time to clean up the work area and properly store any materials or tools. We make every effort to gather up all loose nails, hangers, etc. from your yard. We also cart away our own debris so that you will not have to.

Our Reputation is Our Guarantee

A&A Services has been working with homeowners on the North Shore and in southern New Hampshire for more than 25 years. Your neighbors know the high quality of work we perform, and the high level of service we deliver. Still, we also provide a written guarantee that supplements the manufacturer's warranty on materials.

We look forward to serving your siding needs!



A&A SERVICES
HOME IMPROVEMENT

115 NORTH STREET, SALEM, MA
(978) 741-0424
www.a-aservices.com

*Serving Eastern Massachusetts &
Southern New Hampshire*