

**PRESSED FIBERBOARD****REPRESENTATIVE SURFACE**

Clapboards
Garage Door

GENERAL

Pressed fiberboard is re-manufactured wood. Special treatment is required to maintain the integrity of this material. Read the following information thoroughly.

PREPARATION AND APPLICATION GUIDE

The extremely high cost of cedar clapboards, shakes and shingles over the last several years has forced many building contractors to find alternative, less expensive, siding material. Hardboard siding, which is also known in the construction industry as compressed fiberboard or wood based fiberboard siding, has become a major factor in the siding market for new home construction.

Hardboard, which was originally developed by the Masonite® Corporation is now manufactured by several companies including Masonite, Weyerhaeuser®, Temple®, Simpson®, Abitibi®, and Champion Building Products®. This wood based fiberboard siding is offered in a fairly extensive variety of grades, textures and densities which vary with the manufacturer, and on occasion, within the regional plants of the same manufacturer.

Most hardboard producers have a lap siding (flatboard), embossed siding (wood grained or special texture) and a prefinished siding (flatboard or wood grained).

Hardboard siding composition varies slightly among the manufacturers, but is basically composed of wood cellulose fiber, mixed with phenolic resins and reactivated lignin (the natural glue that holds wood fibers together). A small amount of wax (1%), usually paraffin, is added to increase resistance to water penetration. This material is then formed into panels under high heat and allowed to cure. The density (hardness) of the hardboard siding is determined by the resin mixture and manufacturing process.

Smooth lapboard siding, which is the largest selling type of hardboard, is usually primed in large four foot wide sheets by roller coater at the factory with a fast-dry solvent primer. After the sheets are cut into standard lapboard widths, the raw edges are sprayed with the primer. The paint primer is applied at about 1.2 mils dry. Federal Housing Administration (FHA) specifications call for a totally dry paint film thickness of 4.0 mils. Two additional coats of paint are required after the hardboard is erected to meet FHA paint finish specifications.

Lapboard siding can be marred, bruised and abraded during erection. Butt ends of hardboard are always wide open and unprimed. Nails rupture the siding, producing natural pockets for wicking moisture. The fast dry low end primer does little or nothing to block water soluble extractive bleeding. These deficiencies in the lap siding are usually accentuated in the lower density hardboard products, which account for most painting problems.

PRESSED FIBERBOARD

On flat, lapboard siding, California Products Corporation recommends:

- 1 coat 2020® Exterior Alkyd/ Linseed Oil Antimicrobial Primer #25000
- 1 coat Fres~Coat Troubleshooter® Alkyd/Linseed Oil Wood Primer #21700
- 1 coat Fres~Coat Troubleshooter Fast Drying Exterior Wood Primer #22700
- 2 coats 2010 100% Acrylic Latex Flat #400XX, Eggshell #401XX or Satin Gloss # 402XX
- or
- 2 coats Fres~Coat 100% Acrylic Latex Exterior Velvet (Flat) #450XX or (Satin) #471XX

This will help eliminate:

1. Staining

All hardboards contain water soluble colored extractives such as sugars (pine) or tannin (cedar) which will discolor paint surfaces not primed with California Troubleshooter® Universal Oil Base Primer. Make sure a full vapor barrier has been installed by the builder, as specified by most hardboard manufacturers, or moisture will transmit through the wall cavity and leave a stained surface under the beveled edge of the siding.

2. Swelling and Delamination

The poor factory edge priming on some low density hardboards gives inadequate protection. A full coat of California Troubleshooter Universal Oil Base Primer, especially on the cut bottom edges, will help eliminate potential staining, swelling and delamination.

Use the following instructions to insure a successful paint job on hardboard siding.

1. Check hardboard manufacturer's painting instructions for the actual product being installed.
2. Caulk or fill all nail holes, open butt ends, panel joints or other voids with acrylic latex or butyl caulking compound to provide flexibility for normal expansion and contraction of the hardboard siding.
3. Prime all exposed hardboard siding with 2020 Exterior Alkyd/Linseed Oil Antimicrobial Primer #25000 or Fres~Coat Troubleshooter Alkyd/Linseed Oil Wood Primer #21700. The glycol used as wetting agents in Acrylic Latex Primer might swell rupture hardboard surfaces (nail holes, patched areas, etc.).
4. Finish all properly primed smooth hardboard with 100% Acrylic Latex House Paint. Proper film thickness is obtained by applying two unthinned coats of finish.
5. Prefinished imitation wood hardboard texture siding should be stained with two coats of California Storm Stain® Urethane Latex Solid colors. Do not use oil base stains to avoid possible wax bleeding.
6. Wood batten strips being installed over or behind special finish boards must be backprimed before installation with California Troubleshooter® Universal Oil Base Primer to avoid staining of finished hardboard surfaces. Stucco-type hardboards are especially vulnerable to this type of staining problem. A prime coat of Stonite® Waterborne Acrylic Masonry Primer should be applied to the stucco-type surfaces before finish coating with California 100% Acrylic Latex House Paint.