



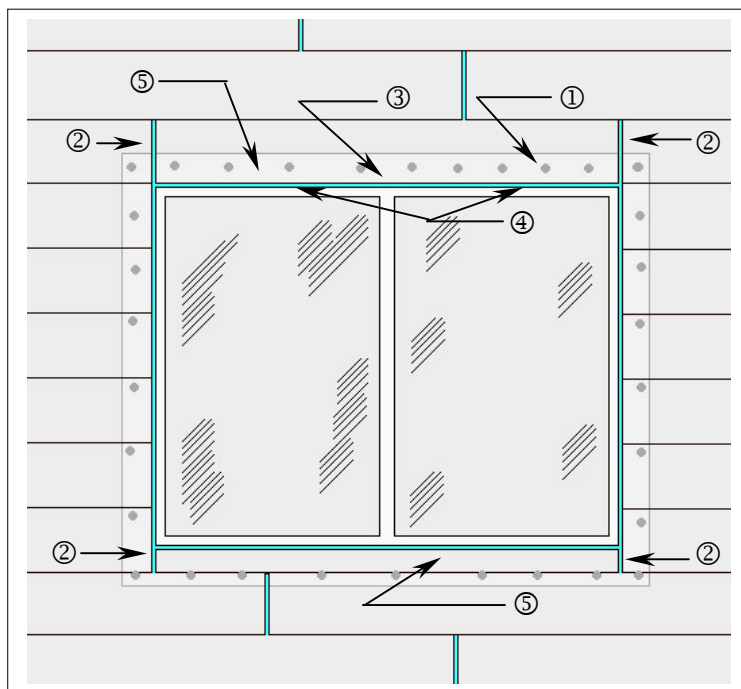
The National Organization of Exterior Finish System Inspectors™

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COMPETENT SIDING APPLICATORS

The role of a siding applicator is to provide a durable, weather tight exterior surface that also enhances the appearance of a building. The responsibilities for any defects that compromise the effectiveness of the exterior cladding rest squarely on the applicator. Attempts at shifting the blame to other trades are unacceptable. The excuse “The roofers left off the flashing” for example, doesn’t change the fact that the sider must install all components, such as flashing, necessary to insure a proper siding installation. The following are a few of the commonly encountered installation defects.

INSTALLATION DEFECTS AT WINDOW OPENINGS



- ① Self-flashing windows have the trim bonded to the window and are manufactured for use with vinyl siding.
- ② Butt joints at the corners of openings are not consistent with industry standards.
- ③ A furring strip above a window re-establishes the angle of the lap siding.
- ④ Sealing the siding to the top of the window traps any incidental moisture that finds its way behind the siding
- ⑤ Adding the fillers above and below the window resulted in the consecutive butt joints. Small pieces of siding are prone to dimensional instability. Attaching the small strip of siding under the window requires nailing through the mounting flange. This restricts the expansion and contraction of the window.

Figure 1

Figure one shows a typical blunder made by inexperienced siding installers. The lack of skills necessary to accurately measure and cut notches results in a pieced together window surround. An examination of these conditions reveals several factors that are likely to result in moisture intrusion. These include:

1. Assuming that windows with a mounting flange are “self flashing” and don’t need head flashing.
2. Placing abutment joints at the top and the bottom of the window.
3. Failing to install a furring strip the top of the window.
4. Caulking the space between the siding and the top of the window.
5. Adding pieces of siding (fillers) above and below the window.

By anticipating potential problem causing conditions before installing the siding, most installation defects can be avoided. For example, an experienced sider lays out the courses in a manner that eliminates the need for narrow pieces of siding above or below the openings.