



The National Organization of Exterior Finish System Inspectors™

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PREVENTING OR REPAIRING DAMAGE TO COMPOSITE SIDING

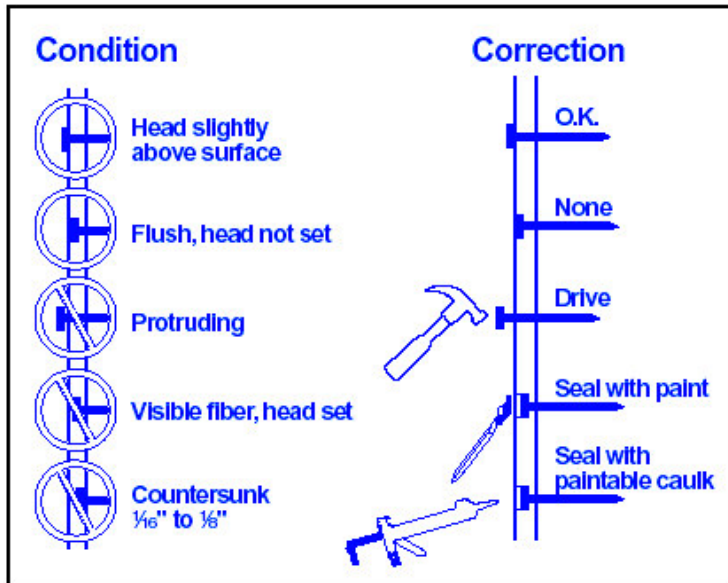


FIG 1 COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED CONDITIONS AT FACE NAILS AND THE RECOMMENDED REPAIRS

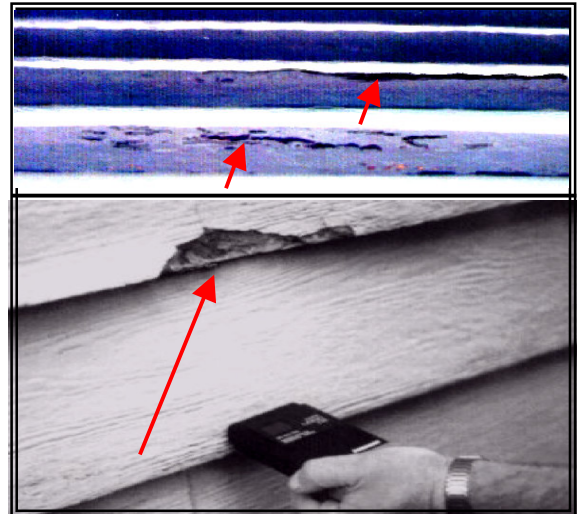
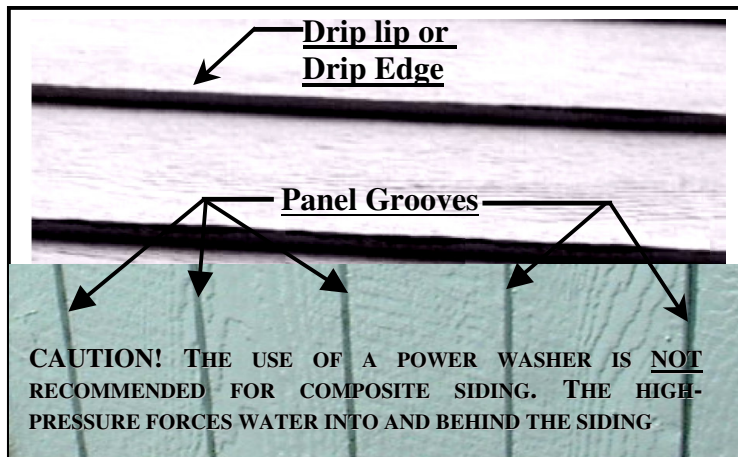


Fig 2 the delamination and edge checking shown at the top has reached the danger level. The deterioration shown at the bottom will soon follow if the siding is not repaired.



CAUTION! THE USE OF A POWER WASHER IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR COMPOSITE SIDING. THE HIGH-PRESSURE FORCES WATER INTO AND BEHIND THE SIDING

Fig 3 A significant amount of the damage found in composite siding occurs at the bottom drip lip of lap siding or the grooves in panel siding. The problems start when this edge or groove is not backbrushed with an added layer of paint. As the paint on this edge or groove begins to fail, moisture penetrates into the substrate and causes it to swell. This causes more paint failures, which then allows more moisture into the substrate, which starts the cycle over again. With each new cycle the amount of damage increases.

To begin preventing or repairing damage to the drip lip or panel grooves, wash the siding with a solution of 2/3 cup of TSP (tri-sodium phosphate) and 1 pint of household bleach dissolved in 1 gallon of water. Rinse the siding and apply the cleaning solution to the walls while they are still wet. The cleaner can be easily applied using a stiff push broom dipped into a wallpaper tray. Allow the cleaner to stand for 10 to 15 minutes before thoroughly rinsing with a garden hose. A second application may be necessary in some areas.

Allow the siding to dry thoroughly before proceeding.

The next step is to seal the drip lip or grooves:

Use either a compatible penetrating or elastomeric sealer (such as Aquathon by United Coatings) or a Block Filler (such as Miller Paint's Product 6015).

Apply liberally with a paintbrush on every drip lip or groove. A second coat may be necessary here as well. The last step is to apply 2 coats of a compatible 100% acrylic latex paint. Backbrushing is again important because, as you remember, the problems started because the drip lip or grooves were not backbrushed.