

Hardie Products with Jeff Harvey and Marcelo Franca

Jeff Harvey and Marcelo Franca spoke about Hardie products in February. Hardie products are made of wood pulp, cement, sand and water. In order to best understand how to inspect Hardie products, it helps to understand their philosophy about water. There are 2 ways to think about water infiltration and the home. One is that the goal is to prevent water from infiltrating the envelope at all costs. In this scenario every effort is made to create an entirely sealed structure. The second approach is to concede that water will find a way in and to build so that the water finds its way out. This is the Hardie approach.

Below is a short list of Hardie installation best practices to look for on an inspection:

All exposed cut edges of Hardie products should be painted.

No blocking is necessary for small penetrations such as wires, electrical conduit and pipes less than 1¼". The circumference should be caulked.

Do not butt Hardie plank against masonry, use flashing.

Siding terminating into vertical trim boards should be caulked.

Lap siding should have staggered butt joints.

Butt joints should have flashing behind the seam and the factory-finished edge should be at the joint. Caulking should not be used here. If it is not the factory edge, the edge should be painted.

Ends of planks should terminate at a stud.

CLEARANCES:

Hardie products should be a minimum of 6" from the ground, 2" from a slab.

Maintain a 1" gap between siding and gutter end-caps.

The intersection of roof fascia/wall, must have water diverter (kick flashing).

Siding and trim should have a 1/8" gap to ensure better caulking adhesion.

There should be a ¼" clearance between trim and horizontal flashing, for water management.

Avoid discussions about warranty leave that to the Hardie folks. The issues are nuanced and it is best to avoid misleading or misspeaking. Their commitment to customer service suggests they will work with clients.

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