HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

REPLACING WOOD SIDING SHINGLES

For do-it-yourself repairs

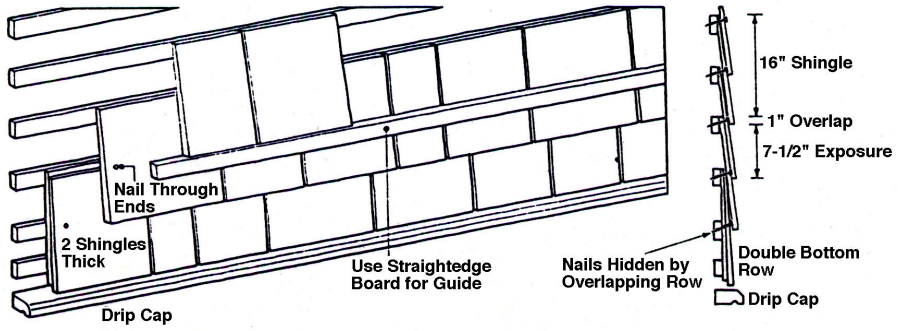
LAP SIDING AND SIDING SHINGLES

Common to most homes (and particularly to homes built more than 50 years ago) are two types of exterior wood coverings. The first one, often used on the whole house, but also commonly found on just the bottom half of a house, is called “lap siding.” Lap siding consists of straight horizontal boards, about six inches wide. The second type, most often found on the top half of a house, but occasionally covering a whole house, is “siding shingles.” These are rectangular pieces of wood attached in rows, resembling roofing shingles in appearance.

Wooden siding shingles are most often made from cedar. Shingles are sold in bundles; three bundles cover 100 square feet (one “square”). Each bundle will contain shingles of various widths.

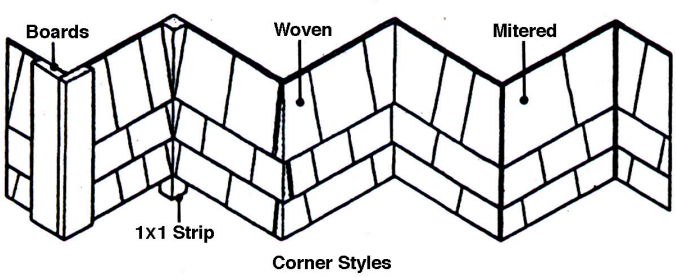
HOW SIDING SHINGLES ARE INSTALLED

Shingles of this type are installed in rows. Usually the rows are even, but in some designs the bottoms are staggered. The bottom row is installed first, and each subsequent row is nailed on top of the row below it, overlapping it. When shingles are nailed in place, the nails are located within the area that will be covered by the shingle above it, so the nail heads don't show *(see illustrations)*.



Shingle rows, exposure and nailing

Outside corners are usually formed by overlapping the shingles from one side over the other. The rows are alternated, with first one side overlapping, and then the other *(see illustration)*.



Corner styles

REPLACING A DAMAGED SHINGLE

While cedar is naturally impervious to water, it is also prone to splitting or cracking, and is relatively soft. So, the chances are good that, at some time over the life of your home, you'll need to replace some shingles.

1. To remove a damaged shingle, use a hammer and wood chisel to split the shingle to be replaced and then pull out the pieces.
2. Next, take a hacksaw blade and cut off the nails left under the upper shingle.
3. Select a replacement shingle of the right width from the bundle. (If you need to trim one down, a razor blade knife and a straight edge work well.)
4. Then, after slipping the new shingle in place, nail through it near the bottom. After nailing the shingle, sink the nail below the surface and cover over the nail head with wood putty to conceal it.

Home Repair Resource center

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

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