CRITICAL INSTALLATION POINTS FOR POLYMERIC CLADDING SYSTEMS

Current codes regulate and place stringent performance requirements on cladding installed in these areas. Polymeric exteriors are a great choice. Polymeric exteriors offer beauty and stand up to more extreme conditions.

Use these quick tips for installing polymeric exteriors and soffit in these regions.

UNDERSTANDING THE USE OF POLYMERIC EXTERIORS AND SOFFIT IN HIGH-WIND REGIONS

THESE UPDATES WILL HELP YOU STAY COMPLIANT AND ACHIEVE THE HIGHEST PERFORMANCE IN COASTAL REGIONS:

- The design pressure rating reflects the highest wind application for which the cladding is suitable and allows building code officials in high-wind regions to determine the appropriate cladding and soffit to install.

- Vinyl siding, insulated vinyl siding, polypropylene siding and backed vinyl siding products have a standard design pressure rating published as part of the VSI Product Certification Program.

- Vinyl soffit in high wind regions needs to exhibit a proper design pressure rating.

- Vinyl siding, insulated vinyl siding and backed vinyl siding products designed for use in high-wind regions typically have reinforced nail hems (i.e., double or rolled-over nail hems versus single-nail hems).

- Polypropylene siding in high-wind regions typically needs to be installed 8" to 10" on center based on manufacturer's instructions.

VINYL SIDING INSTALLATION TIPS

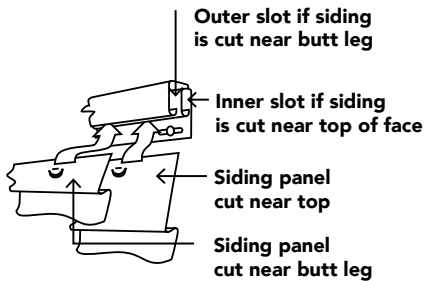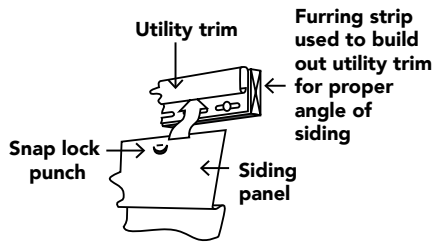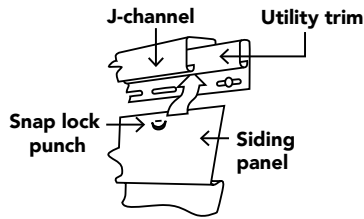### INSTALLING THE STARTER STRIP

- In normal wall applications, starter strips are required.

- Vinyl siding, insulated vinyl siding, polypropylene siding and backed vinyl siding starter strips are unique and may not be used interchangeably, so follow manufacturer specifications for each product category.

- A starter strip not matched to the lock design of the cladding could cause the bottom course to blow off, which can lead to product failure.

- Do not use J-channel or other types of trim in place of a starter strip except when installing vertical siding.
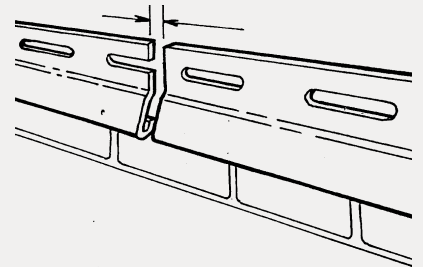
The polymeric exteriors industry makes it easy to specify the right products for high wind regions.
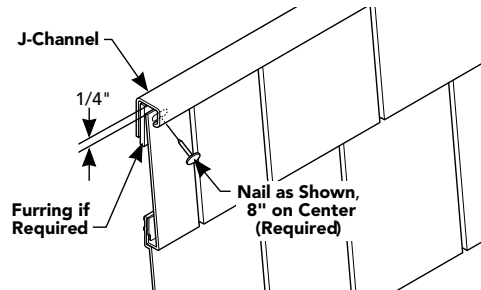
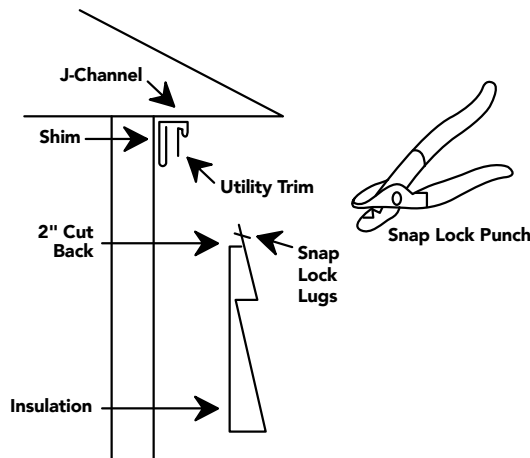# CRITICAL INSTALLATION POINTS FOR POLYMERIC CLADDING SYSTEMS

UTILITY TRIM

J-channel   Utility trim

Snap lock punch   Siding panel

Utility trim   Furring strip used to build out utility trim for proper angle of siding

Snap lock punch   Siding panel

Outer slot if siding is cut near butt leg

Inner slot if siding is cut near top of face

Siding panel cut near top

Siding panel cut near butt leg

*Snap lock punches should be about 6" on center

POLYPROPYLENE SIDING

J-Channel

1/4"

Furring if Required

Nail as Shown, 8" on Center (Required)

INSULATED VINYL SIDING

J-Channel

Shim

Utility Trim

2" Cut Back

Snap Lock Lugs

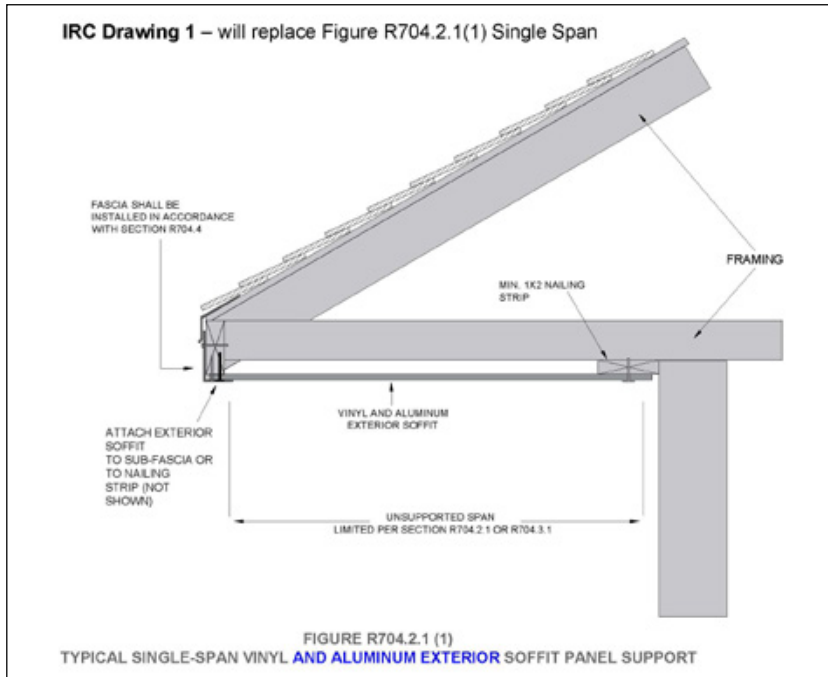Snap Lock Punch

Insulation

INSTALLATION TIPS

CLADDING UNDER WINDOWS AT THE TOP OF WALL

- Failure to use proper connection can create a weak point for the system.

- Use of utility trim and punch-locked vinyl siding, backed vinyl siding or insulated vinyl siding is critical under windows and at the top of the walls.

- Using a snap lock punch (or other nail hole-creating tools), punch every 6" along the cut edge of vinyl siding, backed vinyl siding insulated vinyl siding and backed vinyl siding and every 8" along the cut edge of polypropylene siding.

- Any time the top lock has been removed from cladding, utility trim should be used as a receiver to secure the punched-tab cladding panel.
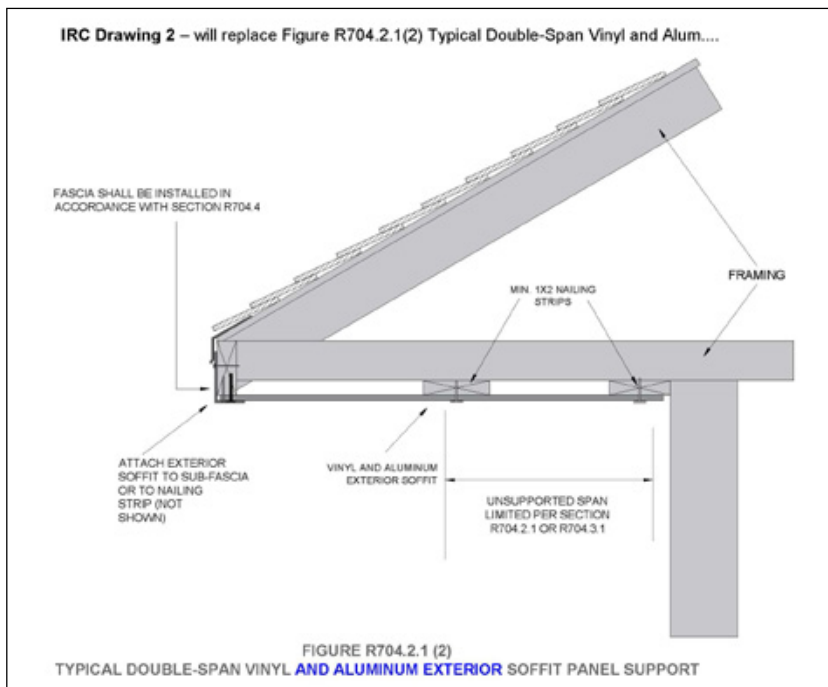
- Furring may be required.

CRITICAL INSTALLATION POINTS FOR POLYMERIC CLADDING SYSTEMS

## SINGLE SPAN SOFFIT INSTALLATION DRAWING FROM 2027 IRC

IRC Drawing 1 – will replace Figure R704.2.1(1) Single Span

FASCIA SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION R704.4

FRAMING

MIN. 1X2 NAILING STRIP

ATTACH EXTERIOR SOFFIT TO SUB-FASCIA OR TO NAILING STRIP (NOT SHOWN)

VINYL AND ALUMINUM EXTERIOR SOFFIT

UNSUPPORTED SPAN LIMITED PER SECTION R704.2.1 OR R704.3.1

FIGURE R704.2.1 (1)
TYPICAL SINGLE-SPAN VINYL AND ALUMINUM EXTERIOR SOFFIT PANEL SUPPORT

MULTI SPAN SOFFIT INSTALLATION

IRC Drawing 2 – will replace Figure R704.2.1(2) Typical Double-Span Vinyl and Alum....

FASCIA SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION R704.4

FRAMING

MIN. 1X2 NAILING STRIPS

ATTACH EXTERIOR SOFFIT TO SUB-FASCIA OR TO NAILING STRIP (NOT SHOWN)

VINYL AND ALUMINUM EXTERIOR SOFFIT

UNSUPPORTED SPAN LIMITED PER SECTION R704.2.1 OR R704.3.1

FIGURE R704.2.1 (2)
TYPICAL DOUBLE-SPAN VINYL AND ALUMINUM EXTERIOR SOFFIT PANEL SUPPORT
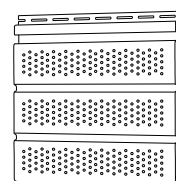
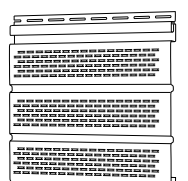## INSTALLATION TIPS

SOFFIT INSTALLATION TIPS

- Vinyl soffit must be fastened at both the fascia and wall.

- In high wind regions, where the unsupported span of soffit panels is greater than 16", intermediate nailing strips shall be provided.

- Once vinyl soffit is installed, fascia covers can be installed into utility trim or behind the existing drip edge.

- Always pre-drill holes into fascia and do not nail tight.

- In non-high wind areas, where the unsupported span of soffit panels is greater than 16", nailing strips shall be provided.

Utility trim

Wood fascia

Aluminum fascia cover

Fastener

Soffit panel

Trim nail

V groove
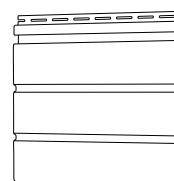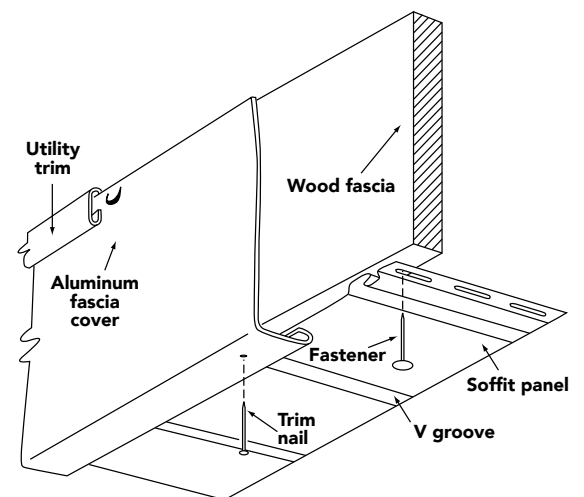
Solid or Hidden Vent   Vented Perforated   Vented Basketweave

POLYMERIC CLADDING JOBSITE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Products certified through the VSI Product Certification Program go through tests and checks to ensure compliance.

☐ Look for the VSI Product Certification Program mark above to verify that the product is certified to the relevant ASTM standards

☐ Vinyl siding panels should move freely

☐ Check to ensure starter strips are used at first course

☐ Check to ensure utility trim and snap locks are used under windows and at top of wall where nail hem is removed

☐ Panels should be fully engaged and locked with each other

☐ Confirm that corrosion resistant fasteners were used

☐ Fasteners should be in the center of the nail slot and penetrate at least 1 1/4" inch into a nailable substrate

☐ Fasteners must have a space of 1/32" (about the thickness of a dime) between the fastener head and cladding panel

☐ There is no caulk used in the installation process except in very specific instances when using certain types of flashing applications

☐ Confirm that vinyl soffit is fastened at both fascia and wall ends

☐ Where the unsupported span of soffit panels is greater than 12" in coastal areas and 16" in non-coastal areas, intermediate nailing strips should be provided

MEETING BUILDING INSPECTOR AND OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS

Rely on certified cladding products to help inspections move quickly. Products certified through the VSI Product Certification Program go through tests and checks to ensure compliance with the ASTM-appropriate product standards for:

- Weatherability, wind load and impact resistance
- Expansion and contraction
- Surface distortion
- Length, width and thickness
- Fire performance including flame spread

FIND CERTIFIED PRODUCTS NOW

COASTAL AREAS

For coastal high wind areas, building inspectors should request design pressure information or consult the manufacturer's code compliance report to ensure the product is verified for use in high wind areas. Design pressure ratings are on product packaging.