

Log Cabin Siding Installation Guide

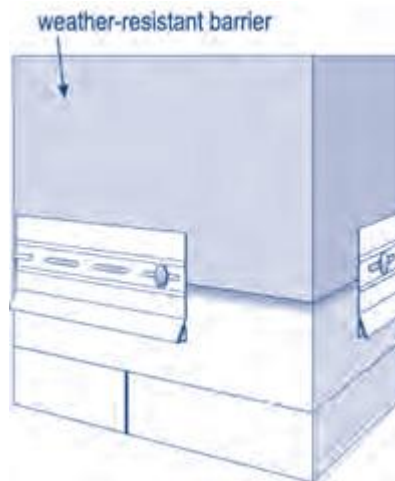
Log Siding Starter Installation

For proper log cabin siding installation in a level fashion, the starter strip on the bottom of the wall must be leveled correctly.

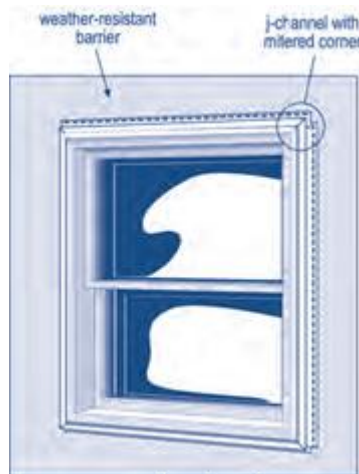
- Determine the lowest point of the wall that will be sided; from that point, measure up 1/4" less than the width of the starter and partially drive a nail at one corner.
- Attach a chalk line; go to the next corner and pull the line taut.
- Make sure the line is level by using a line level or a 4' level.
- Snap the chalk line and repeat the procedure around the entire house. Using the chalk line as a guide, install the top edge of the starter along the bottom of the chalk line, nailing at 10" intervals. Allow space for the corner posts, J-channels, etc.
- Keep the ends of starter strips at least 1/4" apart to allow for expansion.
- Leave approximately 1/4" between the starter and the corner post.
- Nail in the center of the starter strip nailing slots.



Starter trim installation



Starter trim at corners



Window detail

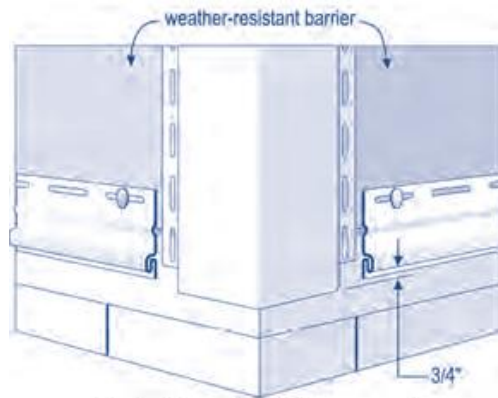
Log Siding J-channels Installation

A J-channel is used around windows and doors to receive the siding. Follow these steps below when applying trim for your exterior siding project.

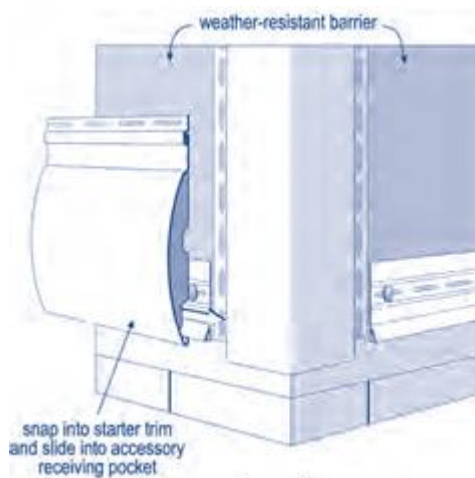
- Cut and bend the tab of the top piece of J-channel down to provide flashing over the side J-channel.
- Fold the bottom end of the side piece of

J-channel inward at the bottom of the window, to fit over the existing J-channel to prevent water from entering under the sill.

- Cut the side J-channel members longer than the height of the window or door, and notch the channel at the top.
- Miter cut the free flange at a 45° angle and bend the tab down to provide flashing over the side members. A similar miter and tab may be provided at the bottom of the window, depending on the sill's condition. The J-channel should fit snug to the window.
- To trim the bottom of windows, and at the eave, J-channel can be used with the undersill molding inside the J-channel. The J-channel and undersill combination will secure the cut siding panel and help to keep the alignment straight. Dual undersill molding combines both functions into one part. Cut and secure dual undersill similarly to using J-channels.



Starter trim and outside corner post

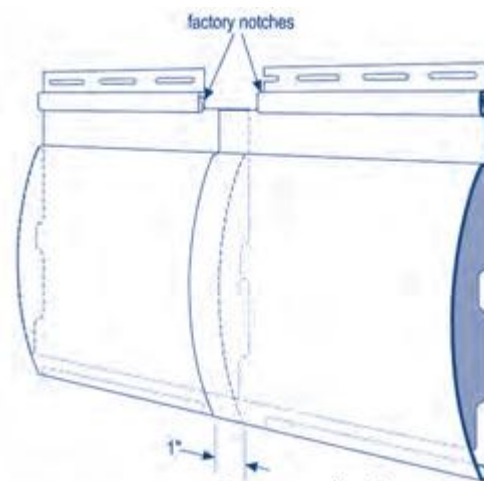


First panel installation

Log Siding Outside Corner Posts

The installation of the Log Siding outside corner posts is important as these corners are an integral part of the wall system.

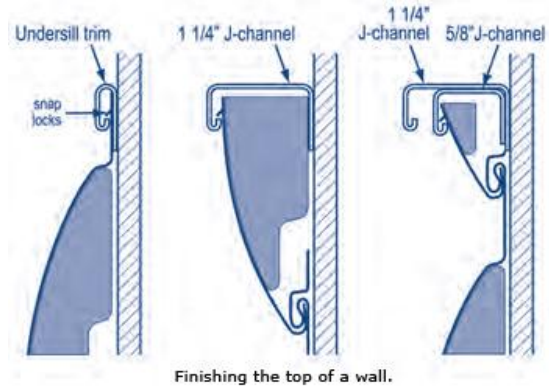
- A water resistant material should be used to flash the inside and outside corners a minimum of 10" on each side.
- Place the corner post in position, allowing a 1/4" gap between the top of the post and the eave or soffit.
- Position a nail at the top of the upper slot on both sides of the corner post, leaving a 1/32" gap between the nail heads and the corner posts. The corner post hangs from these nails.
- The balance of the nailing should be in



Log panel junction detail

the center of the slot, 8" to 12" apart, again leaving 1/32" between the nail head and the corner post. This allows for the expansion and contraction to occur.

- The corner post should extend 3/4" below the starter strip. Make sure the posts are plumb (i.e., vertically straight).
- For a better finished appearance, remove a 3/4" portion of the nail them on both sides of the corner post.



Log Cabin Siding Installation

As with all vinyl exterior siding installations, the first row of siding will always guide the remainder of the wall. Starting your log cabin siding installation the right way will ensure an easy installation.

- Place the first vinyl exterior siding panel into the starter trim piece and slide the panel into the pocket of the corner post.
- Fasten the panels in the center of the nailing slots. Allowances should be made for expansion and contraction by leaving a 1/4" gap between the siding and all corner posts and channels (increase to 3/8" when installing in temperatures below 40° F).
- Do not drive the head of the fastener tightly against the nail slot. Leave 1/32" between the fastener head and the vinyl (about the thickness of a dime).
- Do not force the panels up or down when fastening. Panel locks should be fully engaged; however, the panels should not be under vertical tension or compression when they are fastened.
- Since vinyl exterior siding moves as the temperature changes, make certain that the vinyl panels can move freely in a side-to-side direction once fastened.
- Check every fifth or sixth course for

horizontal alignment. Also check siding alignment with adjoining walls.

- When panels overlap, make sure they overlap by one half the length of the notch at the end of the panel, or approximately 1". The foam insert in the back of the panels should but together.

Always overlap joints away from entrances and away from the point of greatest traffic. This will improve the overall appearance of the installation. Vinyl siding panel seams should be staggered along the installation and should be at least three courses apart.

Exterior Siding Installation under window and crown area

Several options are available to secure the topmost panel of your log cabin siding installation below the eaves or windows. Depending on where the exterior siding panel has to be cut, it is imperative that you follow one of the methods below:

If the Log Siding is cut in a thick section of the panel;

- Cut the Log Siding and punch snap locks every 6" to 8".
- Push the panel securely into the top J-channel.

If the Log Siding is cut above or below the thickest section of the panel;

- Place a smaller 5/8" J-channel inside the 1 1/4" J-channel to act as an undersill trim.
- Cut the Log Siding Panel to the appropriate dimension and punch snap locks every 6" to 8". This allows for the

expansion and contraction to occur.

- Push the Log Siding Panel securely into the 5/8" J-channel.

If the Log Siding panel is cut above the foam section of the panel;

- Install an undersill trim in the top J-Channel.
- Cut the Log Siding Panel to the right dimension and punch snap locks every 6" to 8".
- Snap lock the Log Siding Panel into the J-channel, checking for proper free movement.