

While WeatherBoards™ FiberCement siding remains a remarkably low maintenance product, the suggestions and recommendations below should be followed to achieve long term satisfaction.

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND CARE

The siding should be inspected periodically with the following routine maintenance performed as necessary:

- Renail any loose siding.
- Cut back any trees or shrubs that rub against the siding.
- Replace any caulking that has hardened, cracked or lost its seal.
- Correct the drainage in any spots where water is retained in contact with the siding. Long term contact with water may result in discoloration.
- Avoid regularly wetting the siding with lawn sprinklers since water in many locales contains rust or minerals which may discolor the siding's surface, shorten the life of the paint job and encourage the growth of mildew and fungus.

WASHING

Depending on local and climate conditions, the siding may be subject to occasional accumulations of dirt, dust, etc. To keep the siding attractive, periodic washing may be in order. Use water to which a moderate amount of household cleaner has been added. Apply the solution with a cloth, sponge or soft brush (such as a car wash brush). Less streaking will result if the siding is washed from bottom to top. Immediately follow all washing by thoroughly rinsing with plain water from a garden hose. Never use harsh cleansers, abrasives or strong solvents, which may damage the paint or surface. If the discoloration does not wash off it may be mildew or a fungus growth.

MILDEW

Mildew is an airborne fungus that attaches to, and grows on, various surfaces, including paint. It often gives a dirty, streaked appearance on a painted surface that appears to be dirt. A simple test to confirm the presence of mildew is to place a drop of common household bleach on the stained area. Mildew will bleach out in 1-2 minutes, dirt will not. Other fungus growths, such as molds, are more easily recognized since they are thicker, more dense and range in color from green to brown to black.

Mildew and fungus must be killed and removed whenever they are detected, but especially before repainting since they will grow through a new paint job. To remove use the following solution:

- 2/3 cup TSP (trisodium phosphate) - available in paint or hardware stores.
- 1/3 cup detergent containing no ammonia
- 1 quart Clorox
- 3 quarts warm water

It is advisable to wear rubber gloves and goggles when applying the solution. Protect your shrubbery with a plastic drop cloth. As mildew spores can soon settle on the cleaned surface and renew their growth, a mildew resistant paint specifically recommended by your paint supplier as suitable for FiberCement sidings should be applied as soon as the cleaned surface dries.

REFINISHING:

Frequency: Exterior wall finishes weather most rapidly on those portions of the building that receive greatest exposure to sun and moisture. Areas receiving maximum exposure generally will need finishing sooner than other areas - sometimes as often as every three years. The frequency of refinishing will depend on the climate and exposure, the type, quality and color of the paint, as well as the method of application and the number of coats. Specifically, refinishing is indicated if the surface is discolored and blotchy; or if the coating is cracked, peeling or scaling, or if the coating appears thin or porous and is chalked to the point where it no longer protects or hides the surface.

Surface Preparation: The degree and type of surface preparation necessary is dependent on the condition of the old finish. Loose paint material should be removed by sanding and scraping. The surface should be cleaned before painting as described in the **Washing** section on the preceding page. If the old surface is sound, repriming is typically not necessary. Only top quality, exterior type, acrylic latex primers are recommended. Confirm the compatibility of your primer and finish coats with your paint supplier.

Selecting Paints: CertainTeed's finishing recommendation is a 100% acrylic latex primer and paint system, using only the highest grade paints. Check with your paint supplier for compatibility with FiberCement sidings.