

## SHEER BLOCK AND SIDING

Cut lengths of 4x6 lumber to 6' lengths for sheer blocking. Starting at the corners, fit 2' lengths, notch and fit the 4x6 placing edgewise along the outer edge of the sill plate. At the end of the 4x6 leave a space of 14.5" for venting and continue fitting 4x6 in 6' lengths spaced for vents. The home can now be lowered onto the 4x6 sheer blocking and adjusted to fit the plate and sheer blocking. With the home firmly down on the sheer blocking, the floor and roof bolted completely, areas where the sheer blocking is loose must be shimmed with cedar shims at 16" increments. Study the plans or supplemental plans for proper strapping of sheer panel nailing instructions. Often a strap is called for at each anchor bolt or each end of a sheer block tying the sill plate to the home's rim joist. Ensure that the nails used are approved in the plans. Some plans call out hot dipped galvanized nails. They may prohibit the use of electroplated nails used in pneumatic fastener guns. The plans may also call out toe-nailing of the rim joist to the sheer blocking and the sheer blocking to the sill plate. After finishing carefully inspect your work looking for missing nails or straps. An inspection is required prior to installing siding



## SHEET SIDING

Upon passing the framing inspection, the siding may be installed. If using a concrete based siding such as Hardi brand, wrap the home or framing with building paper. The siding should be true to level where installed on site. We will consider our foundation wall and plate adequately level and use it for a reference. Begin by marking the foundation wall at 1" below the plate about every 20'. Next, make a chalk line at 1" below the plate to make a level line for use in installing siding. In lieu of the chalk line, measure up from the plate to a point where the first plank top will be and mark the blocking about every 10' for a height guide. Mark the vent openings carefully above the upper siding Z bar flashing to help with locating the vents later. To install the siding, measure from the chalk line below the plate to the top of the Z bar at each end of the sheet area. From the shortest measurement, deduct 1/8" for ease of fit. Next, cross cut the panel with a cross cut saw or circular saw to the determined length. At the beginning and end of a run of siding, the sheet may need to be ripped short in order to align the siding grooves with the siding above. Install the siding level with the chalk line at the bottom inserting the sheets into the Z bar and aligning the grooves as practical. The Z bar flashing has some room to adjust up and down, so the bottom of the sheet level and alignment is most important. Proceed around the unit being careful to maintain reasonable tolerance of the grooves. Stop the siding at the marriage lines ripping the ending sheet and the next beginning sheet to keep the siding aligned. Cut the sheets one at a time since the siding on the home sections may not be installed level, the foundation may not be level, and the unit may have corners racked high for roof alignment. The siding must be nailed to plan and consistent with the manufacturers specifications. Consult the foundation plans on every job. Where nails will penetrate the treated plate, hot dipped galvanized or stainless nails must be used. You can use electro plated gun nails on the balance of the siding. The plans also specify nailing patterns. Usually #8 nails are used at 4" o.c. top and bottom of the short transverse walls of the building and 6" o.c. on the long ends of the building. Field nailing is often 12" o.c. vertically. With the retaining wall foundation there isn't 12" between the top and bottom so I recommend a nail between the top and bottom where framing members would usually be i.e. 16" o.c. The nails must be set flush with the siding but should not penetrate any deeper. All overdriven nails should be covered with caulking and a sister nail added. Systematically dab caulking on the nails of 1 sheet at a time, then with a putty knife, float down, then across with the grain to set the caulking. In some cases sheet siding with no grooves is used for siding.

Here the factory has installed the Z bar flashing at the bottom of the rim joist. The siding must be cut 2 1/2" above the bottom of the rim joist and new Z bar installed, then tie down straps and siding can be correctly installed.



## COTTAGE LAP SIDING

Follow the same procedure from the installation of sheet siding above until it is time to install the siding. The cottage lap siding must be fit under the sheet above it in shiplap style. Like roof shingles, care must be given to place the sheets in an offset pattern to match the siding layout pattern above it. There are metal splice pieces to be fit between the pieces at the joints. Leave about a quarter inch for the splice. And install the splices as you proceed. The sheets must be ripped lengthwise cutting the bottom of the sheet off to match the chalk line on the foundation. Pay careful attention the siding above being uneven, wandering up and down. The panel may need to be ripped a bit diagonally to accommodate un level siding above. Attempt to leave the siding at a level bottom with the grooves even as sheets meet. It may be very difficult to keep the siding level on the bottom, groove height matching and the groove at the top even. Caulk overdriven nails.

## VENTS

For sheet sided homes, first check the vent opening marks for width and adjust as needed to work with the vent. Next transfer the marks using a square or level making vertical marks from above the Z bar to the siding, making marks from the bottom to the Z bar vertically. Next, using a strip of trim stock at 2 ½” thick, based on a 1” siding overhang. Hold flush with the bottom of the siding and mark along the top creating the bottom cut line. Now using a piece of stock the height of the vent plus 2 ½” thus about 8 ½” hold flush with the bottom of the siding and mark along the top creating the top cut line. Using a mini circular saw cut out the opening. A reciprocating saw can be useful to finish the corners. If the opening marks are lost or forgotten, from under the home, drill small holes in the 4 corners and from the outside, using a reciprocating saw, cut the opening. Again check actual width of the vent and make level cut lines based on adjusted points. Measure and cut the top and bottom using trim stock as above. After priming and painting the siding and all cut edges to manufacturer’s specifications, install the vents and fasten with one screw centered at each side angled toward the blocking.



## PLANK SIDING

Plank siding is lapped and must be installed the same. Follow the procedure listed in installing sheet siding until it is time to install siding. Install all corner and other vertical

trim. Install the bottom plank to the chalk line or pencil marks on the blocking section, keeping in mind, the staggered type pattern in the plank siding. Also note that of two sheets of plank siding, you are starting the bottom first. Cut the vent holes in the bottom plank as you proceed. The plank stops 1/16" from the corner trim it does not go to the actual corners. There should be blocking or sheer panel behind the plank ends to nail to. Nailing is generally always from the top, nailing the bottom minimally only if needed. After the bottom is finished, install the next layer of plank in pattern with the rest of the siding. Cut out the vent openings as you go. Nail this plank through the bottom of the next higher sheet and the bottom as needed. Caulk any overdriven nails. Paint the siding. I leave excess building paper until the paint is finished and then trim it back. Wash the area above the new siding so that you do not spot paint over grime or dirt. Install vents and fasten with two screws, one at each side edge, angled into the blocking. Inspect for quality assurance.