

5

Avoidable Mistakes When Choosing Wood Siding



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The warmth and beauty that a real wood exterior siding can add to a home are unparalleled. However, there are several pitfalls to be aware of when choosing the right wood product. Without the proper knowledge and product choices, you can end up with a real eye-sore or even a complete siding failure.

To be confident in your decisions, read our five avoidable mistakes when choosing wood siding for your home's exterior.

Mistake #1: Selecting a wood that is not bug and rot-resistant.

Unfortunately, all too many sidings have been taken over by termites and improper care of weather elements. Even native California species such as Doug Fir & Redwood are not immune to these problems.

We recommend Cedar and other tropical hardwoods for exteriors, which create a natural pest and rot resistance.

Also, there are a variety of wood products that have been modified to prevent these problems. Modified wood products like Accoya and Lignia have unique proprietary processes that help stabilize the wood and come with a 25-year warranty. There are also wood products that have been thermally modified with steam and heat to be decay and bug resistant.

Mistake #2: Choosing an unstable species and cut for the outdoors.

Not all wood is meant to be outside, which makes wood siding failures all too common. Utilizing the right wood products along with tried and true installation techniques can help avoid costly repairs.

Certain wood species and even lumber cut patterns (Plain, Rift, & quartered) lend themselves to a project's longevity. Plain Slice materials are much more likely to cup and twist than the stability offered in a rift and quartered cut. In particular, Vertical Grain Cedar, while still not immune, provides excellent resistance to movement and grain delimitation than its Plain Slice counterpart.

For tropical hardwoods, we recommend utilizing a clip system. Our custom shiplap pattern allows for the natural expansion & contraction to occur while still maintaining structural integrity. Also, it is a hidden fastener, offering a beautiful and flawless aesthetic.

Lastly, knowing the type of exposure to the elements & sun will help determine which product will best stand the test of time.



Mistake #3: Not being aware of the maintenance.

Like anything in your home, your wood siding will require a certain level of maintenance. The beautiful color array and character offered by a Select tight knot Cedar siding can last for years. However, to preserve the color and extend the wood's life, refinishing maintenance should be considered annually.

If you desire to allow the wood to weather and derive a natural patina, specific products will age better without sacrificing the integrity/longevity:

Modified Woods

Modified woods are a great first choice, as the wood cell structure is not affected by the elements & yet will produce a beautiful gray color in time.

Monterey Cypress

When properly installed, Monterey Cypress produces one of the most beautiful patinas gray colors (in our opinion). Pre-weathered is also available in this one of a kind product.



Mistake #4: Ignoring the fire resistance properties.

Unfortunately, the new normal in California is seasonal wildfires. With new building regulations being added each year to help protect new builds from fires, knowing which materials are compliant is all too important.

Fortunately, you don't have to sacrifice the beauty of an exterior wood siding. There are now a variety of woods & engineered siding products that carry the WUI certification.

1. WUI Approved Engineered Cedar – Vertical Grain
2. Lignia Fire Rated
3. Tropical hardwoods such as Ipe & Lyptus all have natural fire-resistant properties that give it a class A fire rating

Mistake #5: Not considering the final aesthetics.

While we admit this mistake is rare, it does happen. Whether you're outfitting a rustic mountain lodge or creating a modern, sleek accent wall, you will want to select the right wood and installation method. Avoiding to consider the final vision of the space can break the entire flow of your home.

If you have any questions about these mistakes or would like a quote to get started, visit our website artistrymillworks.com.

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