

The Siding Installer is responsible for installing components of the Building Envelope that prevent outside moisture (i.e. rain and melting snow) from entering the building. We accomplish this by installing the appropriate exterior building paper (the second plane of protection), flashing details and trims, the exterior siding (i.e. vinyl, fiber cement, wood or metal), soffits, fascia, eavestroughing, downspouts and deck membranes. The products we install are all pre-manufactured products. The installation of these products on the building requires specific knowledge and skills to ensure that they function effectively, given environmental conditions (i.e. expansion & contraction, overlap, moisture wicking, chemical and mechanical interactions between products, etc).

Residential construction has become more complicated with multiple rooflines, building cantilevers, architectural details and an increased variety of products being specified. These changes have put increased demands on the Siding Installer to understand the building envelope theory and best practices to ensure integrity of the envelope. This means that the Siding installer must build and install flashings with correct slopes and address water management at openings and penetrations in the building. They must install the weather resistant barrier, called the second plane of protection, correctly, ensuring correct overlaps and tie-ins to other trades. They must ensure that the cladding product is installed to meet Alberta Building and Fire codes, at a minimum, as well as manufacturer's specifications. With the increased variety of products available comes the need to understand interactions between products to ensure that the products do not react to each other and cause failures. With steep and multiple rooflines and the extreme weather conditions we have experienced in Alberta in recent years, the redirection of water away from the building, through installation of eavestroughing and downspouts has become even more critical.

With the changes in construction practices, with respect to fire codes, RSI factors and framing details, installation practices become site specific and only a good understanding of Alberta Building & Fire Code, Manufacturers Specifications and Building Envelope theory, can ensure integrity and longevity of the building. The components of the building envelope, if not installed correctly, could have a significant impact on the health of the building and its occupants. Moisture entering the building can cause mold and envelope failures!

The Alberta Mandatory New Home Warranty Program came into effect in February, 2014 and requires a minimum of 5 years warranty on the Building Envelope and a possible extension of another 2 years. It is critical that the initial installation of the exterior components of the building envelope be done correctly. The Siding Contractors Association has been involved with construction site observations where we have witnessed inconsistent and incorrect siding installations. As an industry we believe the only way we can ensure correct installations is by creating a formalized training program, made available across the Province of Alberta, to all Siding Installers.