CONTRACTORS ROUNDTABLE

PEACE OF MIND

Siding

Siding is the exterior material that covers and protects the walls of a house. Siding can also enhance the appearance and value of a house by creating a distinctive style and color scheme. Siding can vary in durability, maintenance, cost, and performance depending on the type and quality of the material used. There are many types of siding available for houses on Long Island, N.Y. but some of the most common and recommended ones are:

Vinyl siding. Vinyl siding is one of the most popular and affordable siding options for houses on Long Island, N.Y. Vinyl siding is made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and requires no painting or caulking. It comes in a variety of colors and textures that can mimic the look of wood, stone, or other natural materials. Vinyl siding is also resistant to fading, cracking, warping, insects, and mold.
Pros: Vinyl siding is easy to install and maintain with soap and water. Vinyl siding can also reduce energy costs by providing insulation and preventing air leaks. Vinyl siding can also last for decades with minimal wear and tear.
Cons: Vinyl siding can be damaged by extreme temperatures, hail, fire, or vandalism. Vinyl siding can also expand and contract with temperature changes, causing gaps or buckling. Vinyl siding may also release toxic chemicals when burned or exposed to high heat. Vinyl siding can also be hard to match potentially increasing the costs of future projects.

Wood siding. Wood siding is a traditional and natural choice for houses on Long Island, N.Y. Wood siding is made from various types of wood, such as cedar, pine, spruce, or redwood. Wood siding can be installed as shingles, shakes, clapboards, or panels. Wood siding Can also be stained or painted to match any color scheme.
Pros: Wood siding has a warm and rustic look that complements many house styles and landscapes. Wood siding can also be easily customized and repaired with nails or screws. Wood siding can also breathe and regulate moisture levels in the house.

Cons: Wood siding requires regular maintenance to prevent rotting, cracking, warping, and fading. Wood siding can also splinter, attract insects, and be prone to mold and mildew. Wood siding may also be more expensive and less environmentally friendly than other materials.

Fiber cement siding. Fiber cement siding is a durable and modern option for houses on Long Island, N.Y. Fiber cement siding is made from a mixture of cement, sand, cellulose fibers, and water.
Fiber cement siding can be molded into various shapes and textures that resemble wood, brick, stone, or stucco. Fiber cement siding can also be painted or pre-finished with any color or design.
Pros: Fiber cement siding is resistant to fire, water, insects, rotting, warping.
Cons: Cost: Fiber cement siding jobs both labor & materials are more expensive than other exterior products. Not moisture-proof: Fiber cement definitely isn't the worst siding in terms of moisture problems! But improper installation can lead to moisture problems.
Poorly insulated: Fiber cement siding doesn't have much insulation value.

Here are the general steps for installing siding, some of the names and other details might change depending on which material you are using, but these are the basic order of operations:

1. Inspect and prepare the exterior of the home, this usually includes a combination of protecting or removing things from around the perimeter of the house, removing the old siding, replacing damaged wood, wrapping and insulating the entire exterior.
2. Measure and cut the siding and accessories. 3. Install the starter strip at the bottom of the wall.
4. Install the corner posts. 5. Install the J-channel around windows and doors. 6. Install the siding from bottom to top. 7. Install the top J-channel and utility trim. 8. Install the soffit panels under the eaves.
It's VERY important to follow proper installation techniques to avoid buckling and warping. Vinyl siding can be installed over wood sheathings or other materials, but a water-resistive barrier is recommended to prevent water intrusion. The thickness of wood sheathing counts toward the total thickness that the fasteners must penetrate into nailable material.