

Home and Garden

# Homeowners choosing vinyl siding

Now that the fair weather days of spring are almost here, homeowners across the country are faced with a decision: Should I repaint my home (again) or invest in siding?

Every year, more and more homeowners are making their preference clear. They have decided to cross exterior painting off their list of household chores and go with solid vinyl siding as the smart choice.

For the first time in history, solid vinyl has surpassed aluminum as the most popular American siding mate-

rial. Statistics show that use of vinyl siding has increased nearly 500 percent over the past 10 years.

And all indications are that this trend will continue, according to Bird Incorporated, a leading manufacturer of vinyl siding and accessories.

As the growing

number of homeowners become aware of the advantages of solid vinyl siding, fewer are willing to tackle the grueling, expensive and endless work of repainting their houses.

If done by a contractor, a two-coat paint job on an average house costs approximately \$1,500 every five years. And even well-tended wood siding is prone to peel, blister and flake.

On the other hand, a one-time siding application will soon pay for itself with the money saved from frequent repainting. The house, in the meantime, continues to maintain a "freshly painted" look.

Manufacturers confident of the long life of solid vinyl, offer consumers extended warranties on the product.

Manufacturers are able to offer such warranties because of the durable properties of solid vinyl: It is made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride) compound, one of the toughest materials

available for exterior siding.

The color is molded clear through, so that even deep scratches will not show. This means there is no need for painting, sanding or priming the exterior.

Vinyl also resists attacks by termites and will not chip, peel or rot. Unlike aluminum, it cannot corrode or dent. And upkeep is simple. Soap and water are all that are needed to maintain the clean, bright appearance of the siding.

Homeowners can choose from a wide variety of styles. Panels are textured to give the look of natural wood clapboard and are available in double 4-inch, double 5-inch and 8-inch widths.

Styles range from a softly sculptured look to a premium design that recreates the appearance of deep-lap wood siding.

And buyers can choose from a full range of attractive colors.



Solid vinyl siding gives homes the look of natural wood clapboard, but never needs painting. Its advantages over other siding materials have made it the number one choice of North American homeowner, according to one manufacturer.

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## Lattice a popular wood for do-it-yourselfers

A project needn't be expensive to be a major home improvement. Backyard fences or sunscreens for a deck, says the Wood Moulding and Millwork Producers' Association, are good examples. Build them as do-it-yourself projects and you'll save some money.

Lattice, one of the most popular wood moulding types, can be used to build a fence to act as a visual

barrier or as a barrier against wind, an unsightly view or unwanted animals.

It also makes an excellent screen for blocking the sun, adding privacy or architectural interest. It can also serve as an interesting backdrop for flowers or shrubs.

Since lattice is decorative, make sure the framework and posts are constructed of sturdy lumber. Be

sure the lattice, frames and posts are properly weather-proofed with a good finish.

Among the more popular lattice patterns that can be used as decorative fences or sunscreens are horizontal and vertical crosshatch and diagonal crosshatch. Other handsome patterns include horizontal, vertical, diamond and herringbone.

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