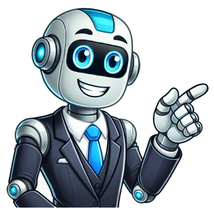
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James hardie installation guide

2025 James Hardie Building Products Inc. All rights reserved unless otherwise noted, where ™ or ® denote trademarks or registered trademarks of James Hardie Technology Ltd. To ensure a smooth project from the start, we'll be sharing tips and answers to frequently asked questions about James Hardie siding installation. If you can't find what you're looking for, check out our Hardie Plank lap siding installation instructions, making sure to use the right guide for your specific Hardie Zone – HZ5 or HZ10. You can also reach out to us on social media by tweeting @James_Hardie or sending a Direct Message on Instagram. We'll occasionally update this article with new questions and answers. Now, let's get started! What is the Process for Hardie Plank Lap Siding Installation? First, review the installation instructions for your specific needs. For guidance, watch our helpful video that shows how to cut and install starter strips, as well as stagger lap siding for a better look. How to Install HardiePlank Lap Siding Hardie Plank lap siding requires a starter strip under the first course. You have two options – either make your own or find suitable prefabricated starter strips available for purchase. If making your own, you can rip a piece of Hardie Plank lap siding into 1-1/4-inch strips. How Do I Stagger Lap Siding? For walls over 12 feet long, you'll need to butt additional lengths together. It's best to stagger joints in each successive course to avoid noticeable patterns. Space adjacent courses' butt joints at least two stud bays for 16-inch framing or one bay for 24-inch framing. While random staggering looks the most pleasing, a progressive stagger pattern can make the job easier and faster without being too noticeable. This strategy involves using the cut off piece from one course as the first piece in the next, efficiently using materials and ensuring all butt joints land on studs. How Do I Flash the Siding Butt Joints? Flashing behind butt joints is an effective way to comply with building codes and protect against water intrusion. James Hardie recommends 6-inch-wide flashing that overlaps the course below by 1-inch. However, local building codes may require different size flashing. Joint flashing must be durable, waterproof material that doesn't react with cement products. What are Some Helpful James Hardie Lap Siding Installation Tips? We have plenty of great tips to help you with your project. When installing Hardie Plank lap siding, make sure to draw vertical chalk lines on the water-resistive barrier at each stud location. To avoid repeating patterns, remove planks from pallets by working across them instead of down. You can take two to four planks from one stack before moving to adjacent ones. Use light-colored joint flashing with light-colored siding and dark-colored flashing with darker finishes. Don't forget to leave the protective laminate slip sheet in place during cutting and fastening, then remove it after each plank is installed. Also, use gentle pressure when joining butt joints, and for Hardie Shingle accent installations, check out separate tips online. Remember that good pictures can tell a story and be worth more than just words.

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