

BUILDING REPAIR INSTRUCTION
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Repairing Your Damaged Clapboard Siding

While spring is still a few months away, it may be time for you to begin thinking about that damaged clapboard on your beautiful old house. Replacing bad portions of siding is critical in maintaining a weather resistant exterior envelope. It's a task that can be easily and inexpensively completed by most homeowners and with tools that you already have.

What you'll need:

- Hammer Ring
- Shank nails
- Pry Bar
- Utility knife
- Tape Measure
- Caulk
- Square Primer/Paint
- New Clapboard (found at your local lumber yard)



Step 1 – Removing the Damaged Clapboard

There will be two sets of nails that will have to be removed in order to pull out the damaged board. First, insert the pointed edge of your pry bar under the bottom lip of the damaged board and pry outward (if this joint has previously been caulked, run your utility knife along the edge to break the seal). This will pull the bottom nails loose. You can now remove them with a hammer. To remove the top nails, carefully pry out the bottom lip of the board above. This should loosen the nails. Now, tapping the board back in will leave the nail heads exposed and easily removed. You can now pull the damaged board away from the house.

Step 2 – Preparing the New Clapboard

Now that you have the damaged piece out, remove any remaining caulk that may still be on the clapboard surrounding the damaged area. Next, measure the length of the opening and lay out your replacement board roughly 1/8" smaller (this will allow you to more easily install your new piece). Cut the piece square, then hold it up to the opening to ensure that it will fit properly. Before you install the new clapboard, it is a good idea to prime it on all sides to protect it from the weather. Let the primer dry before you install your new clapboard.

Step 3 – Installing Your New Clapboard

Now that your new clapboard is cut and primed, you are ready to install it into the opening (you may need a hand with this depending upon the length of the board). Slide your new clapboard up and under the piece above, far enough so that the bottom lip of

your new piece is flush with the lips of adjacent pieces. Flush up both sides. You can use the existing holes in the upper board to nail your new rink shank nails into to secure the top. Insert nails in the bottom following the same pattern, typically every 16”.

Now that the new clapboard is secure, apply a bead of caulk at both edges and vertical seams, wiping any excess caulk away before it dries with a wet rag. Once the caulk is dry, your completed project is ready to paint!

We have the Benjamin Moore Paint Program to assist with selecting a color scheme. Call for appointment.

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