

We feel like the intention of the IRC (2018) is that fiber cement lap siding requires ONE of the options to protect the end joints and should be revised to clearly state that in Indiana's adoption of the IRC (2018).

We have come to this determination in part by referencing James Hardie's installation instructions. James Hardie being the manufacturer of fiber cement siding products that will be used to complete 12,000 Single Family New Construction, 21,000 Siding Replacements, and 6,400 Multi-Family project in Indiana this year.

James Hardie siding is 91% of the fiber cement siding and 30% of all siding products installed in the United States.

The language of the IRC code can be interpreted two different ways :

1. Installation requires the **COMBINATION** of (caulking the joint, covering the joint with an H section joint cover, and located over a strip of flashing) OR shall be designed to comply with Section R703.1.
2. Installation requires only **ONE** of the following options: caulking the joint, covering the joint with an H section joint cover, located over a strip of flashing, or shall be designed to comply with Section R703.1.

IRC 2003

R703.10 Fiber cement siding.

R703.10.2 Horizontal Lap Siding. Lap siding shall be lapped a minimum of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) and shall have the ends sealed with caulking, covered with an H-section joint cover, or located over a strip of flashing. Lap siding courses may be installed with the fastener heads exposed or concealed, according to approved manufacturers' installation instructions.

IRC 2018

R703.10 Fiber cement siding.

JR703.10.2 Lap Siding. Fiber-cement lap siding having a maximum width of 12 inches (305 mm) shall comply with the requirements of ASTM C1186, Type A, minimum Grade II or ISO 8336, Category A, minimum Class 2. Lap siding shall be lapped a minimum of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) and lap siding not having tongue-and-groove end joints shall have the ends protected with caulking, covered with an H section joint cover, located over a strip of flashing, or shall be designed to comply with Section R703.1. Lap siding courses shall be installed with the fastener heads exposed or concealed, in accordance with Table R703.3(1) or approved manufacturer's instructions.

Proposed Changes to IRC 2018

JR703.10.2 Lap Siding. Fiber-cement lap siding having a maximum width of 12 inches (305 mm) shall comply with the requirements of ASTM C1186, Type A, minimum Grade II or ISO 8336, Category A, minimum Class 2. Lap siding shall be lapped a minimum of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) and lap siding not having tongue-and-groove end joints shall have the ends protected with caulking, or covered with an H section joint cover, or located over a strip of flashing, or shall be designed to comply with Section R703.1. Lap siding courses shall be installed with the fastener heads exposed or concealed, in accordance with Table R703.3(1) or approved manufacturer's instructions.