

# Maintenance Guide

U.S. VERSION

## Maibec Sidings

As with all exterior products, siding can be prone to have accumulation of different organic or inorganic substances on its surface. This must be expected as every environment has its own realities. It is therefore important to monitor this on a periodical basis to ensure the longevity of the siding.

### WARNING!

- **DO NOT USE** harsh or abrasive detergents.
- **DO NOT USE** pressure washers to clean the siding.
- **DO NOT USE** products containing acids, ammonia, bleach, etc.
- When using a brush to clean the siding, use a soft bristle brush **ONLY** (such as a car brush).

### 1. Dirt

Dirt is found naturally in most environments. It can cling to the surface of the siding, from occurrences such as back splash from flower beds in the vicinity. Sill areas discolorations, while appearing to be mold or mildew, may simply be accumulating dirt from moisture runoff coming down the wall.

One should:

- a. Clean the dirt off of the siding using a gentle water spray from a household low-pressure garden hose (under 100 psi). It must be noted that cleaning must only be done if an area is in need of it, and only on that area.
- b. In rare instances where the dirt is not removed with a simple spray of water, you can gently scrub the surface using a soft brush and a non-abrasive laundry detergent, or a dishwasher detergent diluted as follows: 1/3 cup detergent for 1 gallon of water. Because they produce suds, dish detergents are not recommended.  
  
Gently rinse the surface with a low-pressure hose (under 100 psi).  
  
If the above does not remove the dirt, it maybe of a chemical nature (such as from a roofing product, pollution, etc.). In such instances, a specific cleaning product may be required.
- c. Ensure that nearby dirt sources are properly managed and beyond mandated clearance from the siding (6" to 8").
- d. Install gutters, and ensure that they are free of clogs that can cause overspill and possible backsplash.

Cleaning the siding will not harm the coating if it is done properly, and only done when and where it is needed.

### 2. Mold and Mildew

Mold and mildew are naturally occurring phenomena that develop on exterior surfaces, due to enviroing organic life such as plants. These spores or colonies are typically seen as "dots" of blackish color. They will typically be seen on specific areas of a wall. Mold needs moisture and a food source to grow. This natural occurrence must be removed\*.

In the case of mold, a soft brush (such as a car brush) may be used to clean the surface. If the mold persists, contact Maibec.

- \* For Bleaching oil, Weathering oil and H2BO water-based bleaching stain, please contact Maibec for proper maintenance.

### 3. Scrapes, Chips, Bumps

Wood siding is extremely resistant to shock, as its independent cell structure allows it to keep its structural integrity. It remains, however, that the coating can scratch or chip when it receives a contact of excessive force (ex: stone projected to the siding from a snowblower, or bbq wheel rubbing against the base of the siding on a deck). These areas need to be monitored and maintained.

For all areas displaying bare wood, use a Maibec-recommended stain, applying it with precision. The list of recommended products is available on our website at [maibec.com/us](http://maibec.com/us) under the SUPPORT tab. **THE STAIN MUST BE APPLIED ONLY TO THE SECTION OF BARE WOOD;** otherwise there may be visible differences in tone with the rest of the siding. Bear in mind that the color of the siding may have paled over the years.

**NOTE:** Siding needs to be spaced by a minimum 1" from adjoining horizontal surfaces such as decks.

### 4. Rot

When using Maibec pre-finished wood sidings, and it is installed according to the manufacturer's requirements, rot is a very rare occurrence. While rot is covered under warranty, it must be alerted to Maibec on the first sign of occurrence. Should the installation be according to specifications, Maibec will provide the labor and/or material depending on the year of installation as per the written warranty.

## Maintenance Guide (cont'd)

During installation, it's important to ensure the siding will not come into contact with accumulated water, as this will void the warranty. This is most likely to occur with:

- Siding on a dormer or chimney along a pitched roof
- Vertical trim resting on the top of a window frame
- Siding in direct contact with a horizontal structure such as a deck
- Siding in direct contact with the ground
- Trim-to-board and board-to-board end joints not cut at a 45° angle.

To ensure excess humidity does not penetrate the siding and lead to rot, the wood must be properly sealed and protected with touch-up stain or with a Maibec-approved stain in good condition.

### 5. Fading

Maibec inc. warrants the stain on its products against cracking, peeling and blistering due to normal weathering. The warranty duration varies according to the product. Fading is a naturally-occurring phenomenon on many exterior products and is not covered by the warranty. As a result, fading must be factored into your maintenance schedule. The amount of fading will vary based on the color chosen, as well as the product's exposure to wind and sun. When the siding has lost enough pigmentation to undergo a visible color change, it must be re-stained using an appropriate Maibec-approved product. Consult the "Staining Guide" for solid colors under the SUPPORT/Maintenance program tab at [maibec.com/us](http://maibec.com/us). A new finish will restore the siding's original luster and protect the wood against premature aging (cracking, swelling, etc.). The wood must be sealed to prevent excessive moisture from penetrating the siding.

The stain warranties for the natural tones siding and semi-transparent "Spice" series shingles cover a shorter time period. As a result, these products require re-staining before similar products in a solid stain. We recommend that our natural tones siding be re-stained (two coats) during the 6th to 8th year to ensure its original beauty is maintained. Our "Spice" series shingles should be re-stained during the 3rd year.

### 6. Minor Defects Related to a Solid Wood Product (solid wood siding only)

When purchasing a true, solid wood siding product, one must expect that a minor percentage of boards may experience the following:

- a. Knot lift
- b. Knot shrinkage
- c. Center heart lift

Although such defects are rare, they may nevertheless appear. This is due to wood's inherent nature, which prevents any manufacturer from fully guaranteeing the stability of the material. Should such a defect occur, be sure to use a Maibec-recommended stain to protect any section of bare wood. The list of recommended products is available on our website at [maibec.com/us](http://maibec.com/us) under the SUPPORT tab.

### 7. Sap Bleed (solid wood siding only)

While the precise drying schedules utilized on Maibec spruce and fir boards neutralize the majority of the sap veins in the wood, it may be possible that some sap surface on a few boards during the warmer months of the year. One can leave it dry, and choose to remove it with a soft bristle brush.

### 8. Tannin Bleed (cedar shingles only)

Tannin is the natural oil found in cedar that gives it outstanding resistance to fungal decay. It is rare in white cedar to ever see it appear, as it typically remains in the wood. It is a water soluble substance. However, tannin can appear in rare cases following intense periods of heavy rains and intense sun. Tannin in white cedar will not stain the surface, and will usually weather away within 8-12 weeks.