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Simple Home Repairs—Exterior Wall Siding and Shingles

Your Problem

- Boards or shingles are warped or split.
- Cracks have developed around knots.
- Holes have developed from loose knots.
- Boards or shingles are rotted or damaged.
- Air and moisture enter the wall.

What You Need

- Replacement boards or shingles
- Building paper
- Siding and shingle nails (galvanized)
- Wood screws (galvanized)
- Asphalt cement
- Putty knife
- Paint (if required)
- Pry bar and chisel (steel-capped handle).
- Claw hammer
- Framing square
- Small hand drill and bit
- Measuring tape

How-To: Warped Boards (or Wood Shingles)

1. Use screws, rather than nails, to straighten the warped board back in line. First, drill guide holes for the screws into the thicker portion of the board (fig. 1). Then drill the larger holes to countersink the screws.
2. Now pull the warped board into line by tightening the screw into the sheathing (fig. 2). Cover the head of the screw with putty.

How-To: Split Boards (or Wood Shingles)

1. First, cut a piece of building paper to slip underneath the split board or shingle. Make it wide enough to fit between the in-place nails.
2. Butt the two halves of the split shingle tightly together. Then nail both halves into place with galvanized nails. Countersink the nailheads and cover them with putty.

How-To: Replacing Damaged Wood Shingles

1. First, using the chisel and hammer, splinter the shingle into small, slender pieces (fig. 3). Carefully

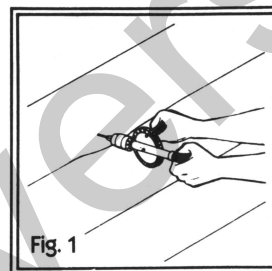


Fig. 1

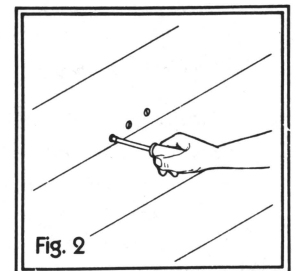


Fig. 2

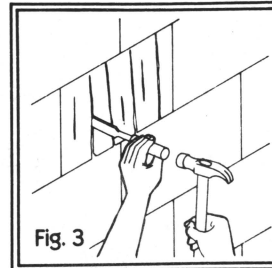


Fig. 3

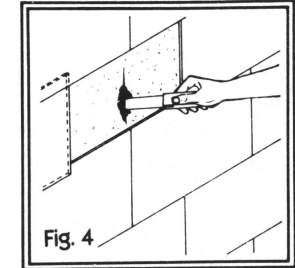


Fig. 4

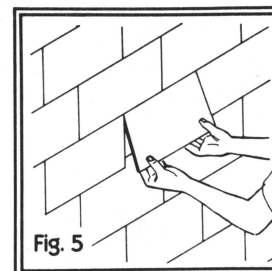


Fig. 5

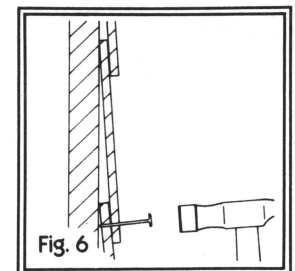
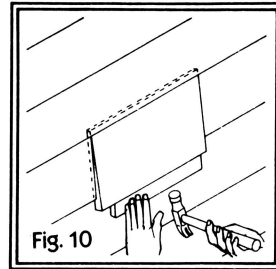
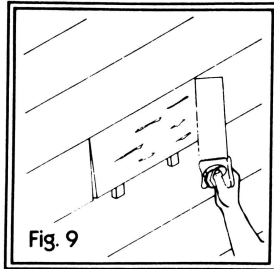
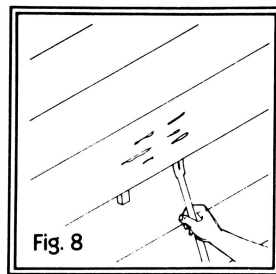
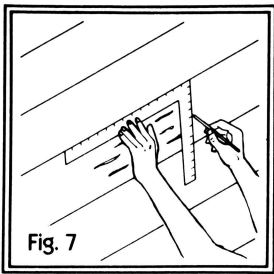


Fig. 6

remove the splintered pieces so as not to damage the remaining shingles. Pull the exposed nails with a claw hammer.

2. Examine the building paper underneath and patch any tears or cuts with asphalt cement (fig. 4).
3. Slip the new shingle into position (fig. 5). Nail the shingle in place with galvanized shingle nails (fig. 6).



How-To: Repair Wood Siding

Instead of replacing the entire siding board, it is easier to cut out the damaged portion.

1. Using the square, mark the board for cut lines (fig. 7). Pry up the bottom edge of the board and insert wedges underneath (fig. 8).
2. Using the saw, cut out the damaged portion of the siding (fig. 9). Make the cut carefully. Don't damage siding boards above or below. Splinter the damaged portion into smaller pieces, using the hammer and chisel.
3. Now using the pry-bar or chisel, remove pieces. Remove remaining nails with the claw hammer.
4. Examine the building paper underneath. Patch any tears or cuts with asphalt cement. (Use asphalt cement

sparingly, as too much will prevent "breathing" of the exterior.)

5. Measure the damaged board opening, mark the saw cut lines and cut the replacement board to fit the opening.
6. Slip the new board into position and drive it into place with the hammer. Hammer against a small wood block to avoid damaging the board (fig. 10).
7. Nail the board in place with galvanized siding nails, using the existing nailing pattern.

How-To: Replace Asbestos Shingles

1. Remove the damaged shingle by simply shattering it with the hammer. If the shingle is not brittle enough to shatter, splinter it into pieces.
2. Remove the shingle pieces and the exposed nails.
3. Drill the nail holes in the new shingle at its lower edge. Position the holes like the old nail holes.
4. Continue the repair using step 2 and 3 for wood shingles.

Your Benefits

- Further deterioration of siding and shingles is prevented.
- Damage to other wall materials is prevented.
- Air and moisture don't penetrate.
- More costly repairs later are prevented.
- Appearance of the house is improved.

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