

USEFUL BLOCKING TECHNIQUES FOR APA RATED SIDING

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Introduction

APA Rated Siding includes plywood, nonveneer and composite panel products that have undergone stringent laboratory evaluation to assure satisfactory performance in exterior siding applications. The Span Rating included in the APA Rated Siding trademark denotes the maximum support spacing recommended. It applies when the siding is to be installed directly to supports over two or more spans (continuous over at least three supports).

These and other application details for APA Rated Siding are published in APA Design/Construction Guide – Residential & Commercial (Form E30).

The desire to extend a siding application beyond these recommendations occasionally arises due to various availability or construction constraints. Where necessary, the techniques suggested below can be used for 19/32" APA Rated Siding 16 oc applied over studs spaced 24" o.c., and for siding panels used over a single span.

Background

APA Rated Siding products are evaluated for conformance to either APA's Manufacturing Specification for 303 Siding or APA's Performance Standard for Siding. The performance standard includes criteria for evaluation of structural performance, dimensional stability, finishability and durability. The factors that affect siding performance have been evaluated through extensive research. Both structural performance and dimensional stability are based on the recommended maximum support spacing denoted in the Span Rating.

Testing has shown that siding panels with a Span Rating of 16 oc have sufficient stiffness and strength under uniform loads to perform satisfactorily in applications with studs spaced 24" o.c. when additional blocking is provided. Satisfactory structural performance for wall bracing or shear applications has also been demonstrated in tests conducted at APA's Research Center.

There is also a concern whether siding panels span-rated 16 oc used at 24" o.c. will remain flat without buckling between studs under exterior moisture conditions. Laboratory tests indicate that additional support provided by horizontal blocking improves the rigidity of the panel, thereby improving the stability performance of the siding.

Recommendations

Recommended blocking for 19/32" APA Rated Siding 16 oc applied over studs spaced 24" o.c. is shown in Figure 1. Two horizontal rows of blocking are recommended, except that 19/32" siding with grooves spaced 8" o.c. or more requires only one row of blocking. The blocking shown in Figure 1 is also applicable to 15/32" plywood siding span-rated 16 oc applied over studs spaced 24" o.c.

Blocking may be 2x4s used edgewise or flatwise or 1x4s inset into the studs. The siding is nailed 6" o.c. along the blocking.

Table 1 presents blocking recommendations for siding installed over single spans. The blocking techniques and nailing recommendations are the same as above, except that the number of rows of blocking required depends upon the Span Rating and the stud spacing.

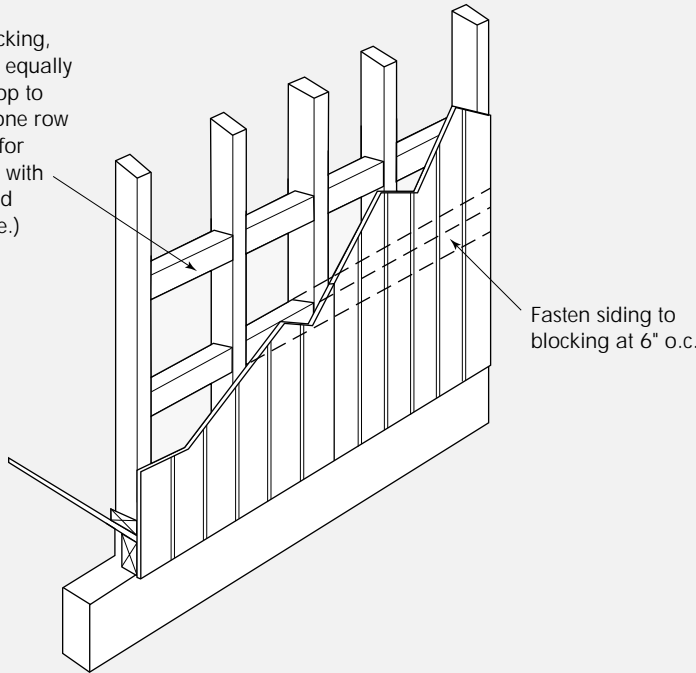
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FIGURE 1

BLOCKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 19/32" APA RATED SIDING 16 oc USED OVER SUPPORTS 24" o.c. (Technique is also suitable for 15/32" plywood siding span-rated 16 oc.)

Two rows of horizontal blocking, approximately equally spaced from top to bottom. (Use one row at mid-height for 19/32" panels with grooves spaced 8" o.c. or more.)



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TABLE 1.

BLOCKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APA RATED SIDING APPLIED OVER A SINGLE SPAN

Stud Spacing (inch)	Span Rating	
	16 oc	24 oc
	horizontal blocking recommended*	
16	2 rows	none required
24	3 rows	2 rows

*Space horizontal blocking approximately equally from top to bottom.

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