

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Choosing Sides: Working With Fiber Cement

(NAPSA)—For your next remodeling project, consider using fiber cement, a material that is rapidly growing in popularity with homeowners. Made of Portland cement, sand, wood fiber and select additives, fiber cement is an excellent choice to revitalize your home.

While wood and hardboard have been the traditional choices for building projects, the use of fiber cement is expected to outpace those materials within the next four years. In fact, according to CertainTeed Corporation, one of the nation's leading manufacturers of innovative building products, fiber cement is expected to comprise 20 percent of the siding market by 2005.

The main reasons for the popularity of fiber cement are that it looks like real wood; is fire-, rot- and insect-resistant; and is easy to work with. In addition, certain products, such as CertainTeed's WeatherBoards™ FiberCement Siding, come with the added bonus of a 50-year warranty.

"With fiber cement, you get all the features of wood siding without all the headaches," says WeatherBoards' Marketing Director Steve Booz. The product's manufacturing process, called DuraPress®, protects it from freeze/thaw cycles and gives the siding its authentic wood grain look.

Remodeling your home with fiber cement is limited only by your imagination. For instance, WeatherBoards provides a choice of styles and natural surface textures, including cedar, smooth and



A new, durable type of siding is gaining in popularity with homeowners.

textured finishes, as well as clapboard, dutchlap and beaded sidings. Accent your gables with cedar shakes, half-rounds or vertical panels.

The siding also comes sealed from the factory with FiberTect™, which protects against unwanted moisture and bonds to paint for a longer-lasting, better-looking finish. While you can opt to paint fiber cement yourself, you don't have to. CertainTeed will do it for you with one of its 10 prefinished standard colors or any of its array of custom colors.

"[WeatherBoards] is a fantastic product," says David Child, president of Precision Exteriors in Vancouver, WA. "You can install it in the dead of winter, and you don't have to paint it right away. That's how durable it is."

Child adds that the DuraPress system helps the siding stand up to any climate, especially those where the weather rules—such as Vancouver, where it rains nine months out of the year.

For more information about fiber cement, visit www.siding.com