

Weaving sidewall shingle corners



STEP BY STEP



1 Do the math once. Cut a story pole to the height of the wall plus 1 in. Calculate the exposure of the shingles, and mark the courses on the pole. This will be your reference for the whole house.



2 Mark the bottom. Snap chalk lines on the foundation 1 in. below the sill to provide a straight reference for the bottom course. Use blue or white chalk, which wash off, and not red or black, which are permanent.

There are two ways to handle outside corners with shingle siding: butt the shingles into corner boards, or weave the shingles so their edges overlap in an alternating pattern. The corner-board approach is simple enough to be nearly self-explanatory, but woven corners are more complicated (and give a more elegant look, in my opinion). With woven corners, the shingles on one side run past the sheathing, while those on the other side butt to the first. The side that runs past and the side that butts alternates with each course. Because shingles are wedge shaped, the edge of each shingle in a woven corner needs to be scribed and trimmed at an angle.

Corners are installed before field shingles and serve to establish the elevations of all the courses. One trick to making shingle siding really sing is to plan the exposure to avoid having a narrow course

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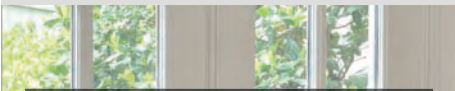
3 Start with the cheap stuff. Lower in quality and price, the undercourse ensures two layers of shingles at the wall bottom. Nail the first shingle with its edge flush to the corner and bottom even with the chalk line. Use 4d or 6d hot-dipped galvanized or stainless-steel siding nails.



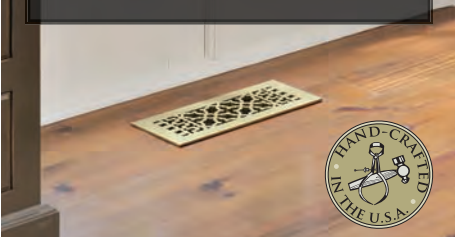
4 Fit the second shingle to the first. Hold the second shingle in place, and scribe the angle of the first on it. Use a block plane to trim the shingle to the line, then nail the shingle to the wall.



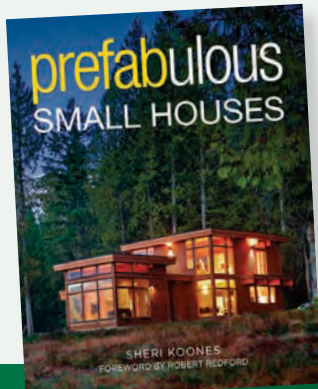
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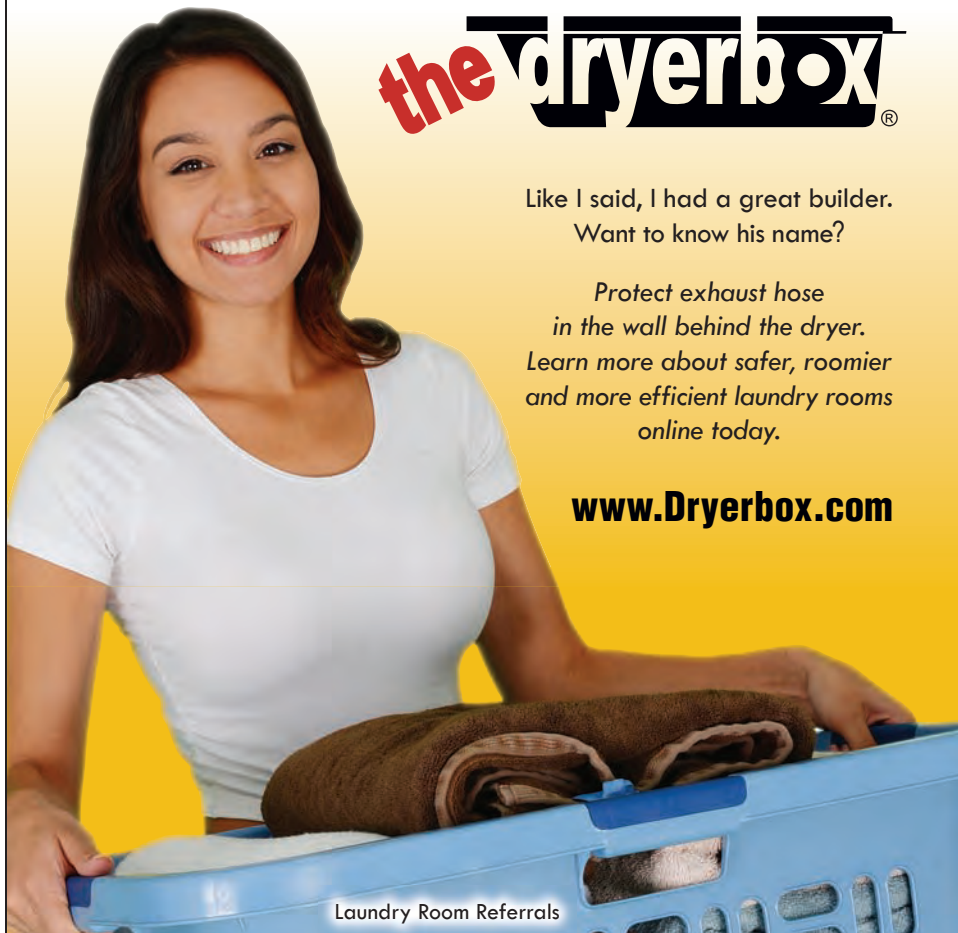
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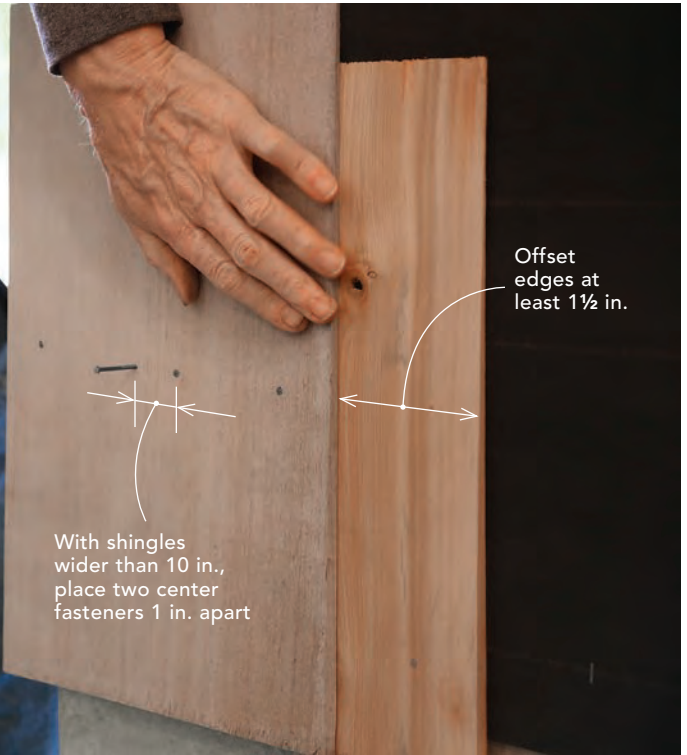
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STEP BY STEP

5 Tie the corner together. Nail the edges of the shingles to keep the joint tight. To prevent splitting and keep the nail from drifting through the shingle face, drill a pilot hole about 1 in. up from the bottom. Nail into the pilot hole, using your hand to back up the shingle to keep it from being pushed out of place by the hammering.



6 To split or not to split. On shingles wider than 10 in., nail near each edge, and place two nails 1 in. apart in the center (2 in. above the bottom of the next course). That encourages any split to happen between those nails, leaving two reasonably sized shingles. If the shingles are splitting when you hand-nail them, try holding the nail heads against the shingle and tapping the point a couple of times. The dent in the wood and the dulled nail make splits less likely.



7 Wider trims. From here up, the double coverage of the shingles doubles the scribe angle. Cut almost to the scribe line with a knife, paying close attention to the grain direction so you don't split the shingle beyond the line, and then plane the edge clean.





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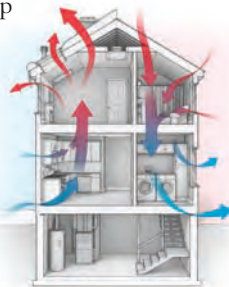


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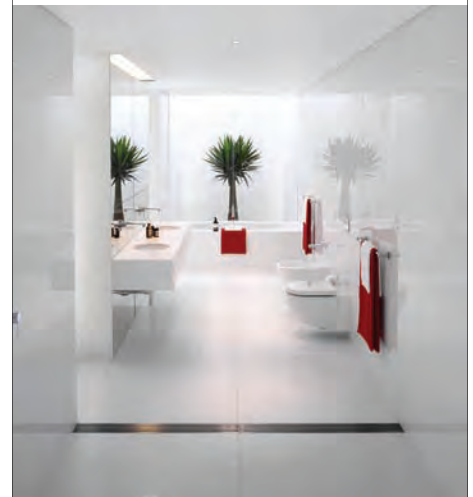
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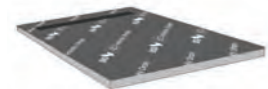
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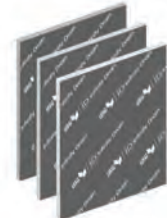
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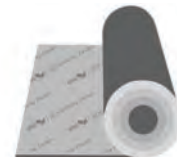
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where the siding meets the soffit. That's a simple enough matter: Measure the wall height, add 1 in. for the shingles to hang over the foundation, then divide that number by the designer or manufacturer's maximum shingle exposure to determine the number of courses. If you're lucky, the dividend will be a whole number. But in most cases, you have to take two more steps: Round the dividend up to the next whole number, which will equal the number of courses, and then divide the wall height (including the 1 in.) by the number of courses to find the exposure. This exposure is marked on a story pole, which is used to transfer the course lines to the building. Don't exceed the manufacturer's maximum exposure—it's critical to make sure there are always two layers. This way, if the face shingle cracks, the second layer protects the wall.

You can further adjust the shingle exposure so the bottoms of the courses fall even with the tops and bottoms of the windows and doors, but those exposures have to be kept consistent all around the house so the woven corners align. I like to work four or five courses at a time, installing the corner shingles pyramid-style with wider ones at the bottom and narrower ones at the top. I'll install the field shingles of those courses, then nail on another four or five courses at the corner until topping out.

No matter the exposure, the flashing behind corners is crucial. The industry association for wood shingles, the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau (cedarbureau.org), calls for #30 asphalt-impregnated felt lapped at least 2 in. shingle-style as a WRB. At the corners, they recommend an additional layer of either self-adhering membrane or sheet metal extending at least 6 in. onto each wall. I like the self-healing characteristics of membranes around nails, but brake-bent sheet metal provides a very crisp corner to work with.

Senior editor Andy Engel is the author of *Carpentry Complete* from The Taunton Press.

STEP BY STEP



8 Tell the story. Hold the story pole against the soffit, and mark the second course elevation in two places on each side of the corner.

9 Reverse the lap. Align shingles in succeeding courses to the story-pole marks, with the first shingle's edge aligned with that of the shingle below. Then overlap the exposed edge with the next shingle, scribe it to fit, and fasten.



To see a step-by-step video on how to weave sidewall shingle corners, visit FineHomebuilding.com/magazine.