

Siding a Library With Boral

BY CHRIS DUBUQUE

A few months ago, my nephew, Josh Goodrich, and I completed work on a new library in my hometown of South Hero, Vt. The building was designed by architect David Roy of Wiemann Lamphere Architects in Colchester, Vt., and his plans called for it to be clad with Boral TruExterior poly-ash siding—with vertical ship-lap covering most of the building and horizontal Dutch lap (cove) on a small section on the front of the building.

I've installed Boral trim on a number of residential projects over the past five years, but this was my first time out with its siding. In the area I work, it's not common to side homes with Boral, due to its price point. Lack of awareness about the product may also play into this (a number of local builders and homeowners dropped by the fairly high-profile site to ask about it—a few even took home offcut pieces to play with).

Key takeaways. Here are a few postmortem tips regarding installation: Use quality stainless steel fasteners that will last as long as the siding; snap lines for all face-nailing to line up nail heads (for both the vertical and horizontal profiles); use inexpensive tools for cutting, as grit from the Boral tends to get into motors and the sliding mechanisms of saws; use quality blades and bits for cutting (coarse jigsaw blades lasted much longer than fine ones); and take care handling long lengths, supporting them as required.

Since the overall structure was built to be highly durable, the Boral siding plays a large role and is worth the investment. Our town is excited about its new library; we expect it (and the Boral siding) to last long time.

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The library was built to be highly durable with 2x8-framed walls sheathed with 1/2-inch OSB and 2-inch Zip System R-Sheathing (with dense-pack cellulose). Wide windows reduced the number of long grade-to-soffit runs of vertical siding (1).



Head and jamb window flanges were taped to the sheathing with Zip flashing tape, then a drainable WRB was installed (2). Metal drip cap and Siga Rissan and Fentrim tapes folded onto the sills' frames (3) were incorporated into the drainable WRB.



Vertical seams were cut at 30-degree angles (a quality dust mask was a must while cutting) **(4)**. The siding was installed with 2-inch-long ACQ staples 8 to 10 inches on-center, blind-nailed along the sides **(6)**. Joints were face-nailed with 8d stainless steel ring-shank nails **(5)**. Jigsaws and drills with Forstner bits **(7)** were used to cut the siding around penetrations **(8)**.



Due to wind, the HydroGap WRB was installed vertically on the north elevation as the siding was installed. The author nailed by hand near windows to avoid damage to underlying flanges and flashings **(9)**. At the stair tower **(10)**, the siding was installed with a 1-inch gap between the roofing and bottom edge of siding; note the kick-out flashing formed into the roofing pan **(11)**.



Dutch-lap siding was face-nailed with 8d SS ring-shank nails (heads flush with siding) and installed tight against trim; gapping wasn't required (cut ends don't need priming) (12). Large penetrations were blocked with Boral; head trim was run over jamb trim (13), similar to window (14). Approved filler was used for holes (15). Nails were installed 14 inches o.c. along snapped lines (16).



Vertical siding lapped over a fiberglass-reinforced plastic protection barrier at grade. Snapped lines helped line up 16-inch-o.c. face-nailing (17). Hole filler and raw Boral were spot painted (gaps were sealed with urethane-based, paintable caulk), followed by a finish coat of Sherwin Williams Resilience (two coats of paint had been applied to the siding offsite prior to delivery) (18).