

# L-P OSB & SIDING

## **OSB SHEATHING**

Multiple class action lawsuits have been launched involving oriented strand board (OSB) sheathing manufactured by Louisiana-Pacific Corporation. The product is composed of thin wood flakes or wafers that are "oriented" in one direction and then impregnated with resins and bonded into structural wood panels under extreme pressure and heat. OSB sheathing is manufactured in different thicknesses for use in roof, wall and floor sheathing. To be a member of the class action you must either have purchased this sheathing or acquired real property in which this sheathing had been installed during the period from January 1, 1984 to October 22, 1997. You will be able to recover costs up to October 22, 2017. Louisiana-Pacific has set up a fund of \$750 million to resolve all claims depending on the application.

## **INNER-SEAL SIDING**

The way Louisiana-Pacific Inner-Seal siding was manufactured before 1995 allegedly made it susceptible to moisture damage. The product comes in either lap boards or panel sheets. It was installed as exterior siding on new structures, mostly in the northwest and southeast of North America. Approximately 25% of the estimated 1 million homes with this siding are in the Pacific Northwest. You may be an eligible claimant if you have incurred damage prior to January 1, 1996 and file a claim prior to January 1, 2003. A 1995 settlement agreement required the company to commit a minimum of \$275 million (as of October 1998 this amount increased to \$500 million) to pay for replacement of damaged Inner-Seal siding that was installed between 1985 and 1995.

This product is a composite wood product made from wafers of wood that are coated in resin and then formed into a "mat." A resin-impregnated overlay is pressed onto the panels under heat and pressure. The panels are then cut into boards to make lap siding or into sheets to make panel siding. The finished texture is designed to look like rough sawn solid wood. The bottom edges of Inner-Seal lap siding are either beveled or cut at an angle; they are not rounded.

There are two methods to visually check if this product has been used on a house. One method is to find unfinished portions of your house where the backsides of the boards or panels can be seen – usually an unfinished garage wall. The siding will be stamped "L-P Inner-Seal siding." Another method is to look at the wood grain pattern on the exterior of the siding. The siding has an embossed grain pattern that has a distinctive knot. The knot is about 2¼" high and appears on most installation of this company's siding.

## **DEFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH L-P INNER-SEAL SIDING:**

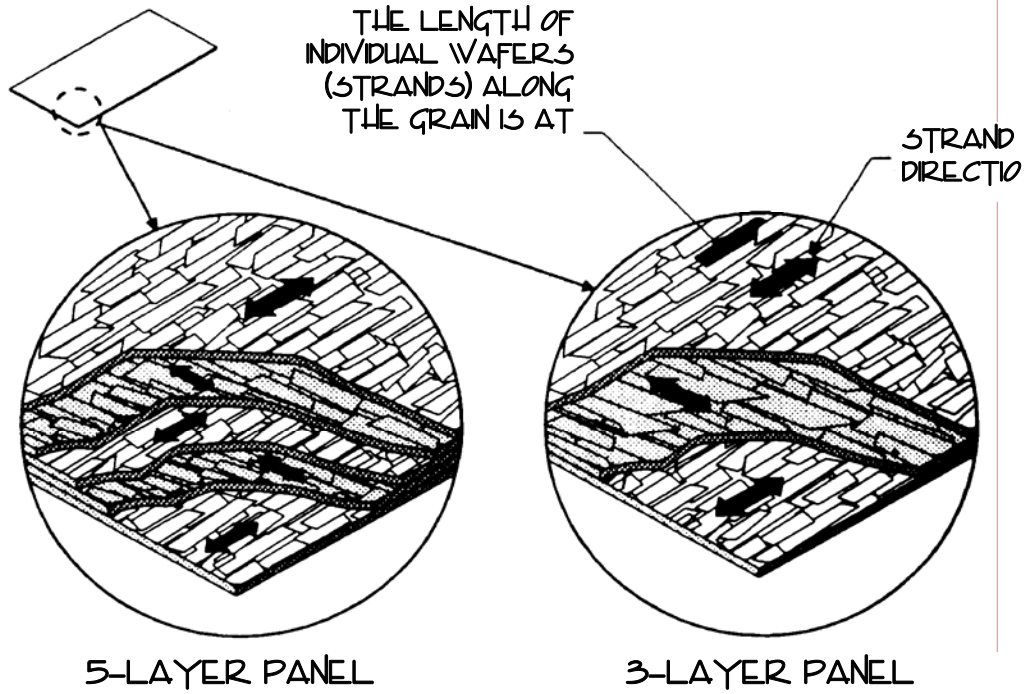
- **SWELLING UNDER THE DRIP EDGE (BOTTOM OF THE LAP OR PANEL)**
- **MOLD, FUNGUS OR MUSHROOMS GROWING BETWEEN THE BOARDS**
- **DE-LAMINATION OR DETERIORATION OF THE FACE FROM THE REST OF THE BOARD**
- **WARPING, BUCKLING OR BULGING ALONG THE SURFACE**
- **CRACKS OR BLISTERING UNDER THE EDGES OF THE BOARDS**
- **DISCOLORED SPOTS OR "WAX SPOTS" SHOWING THROUGH THE BOARD**

## **MAINTENANCE ITEMS (ANNUALLY):**

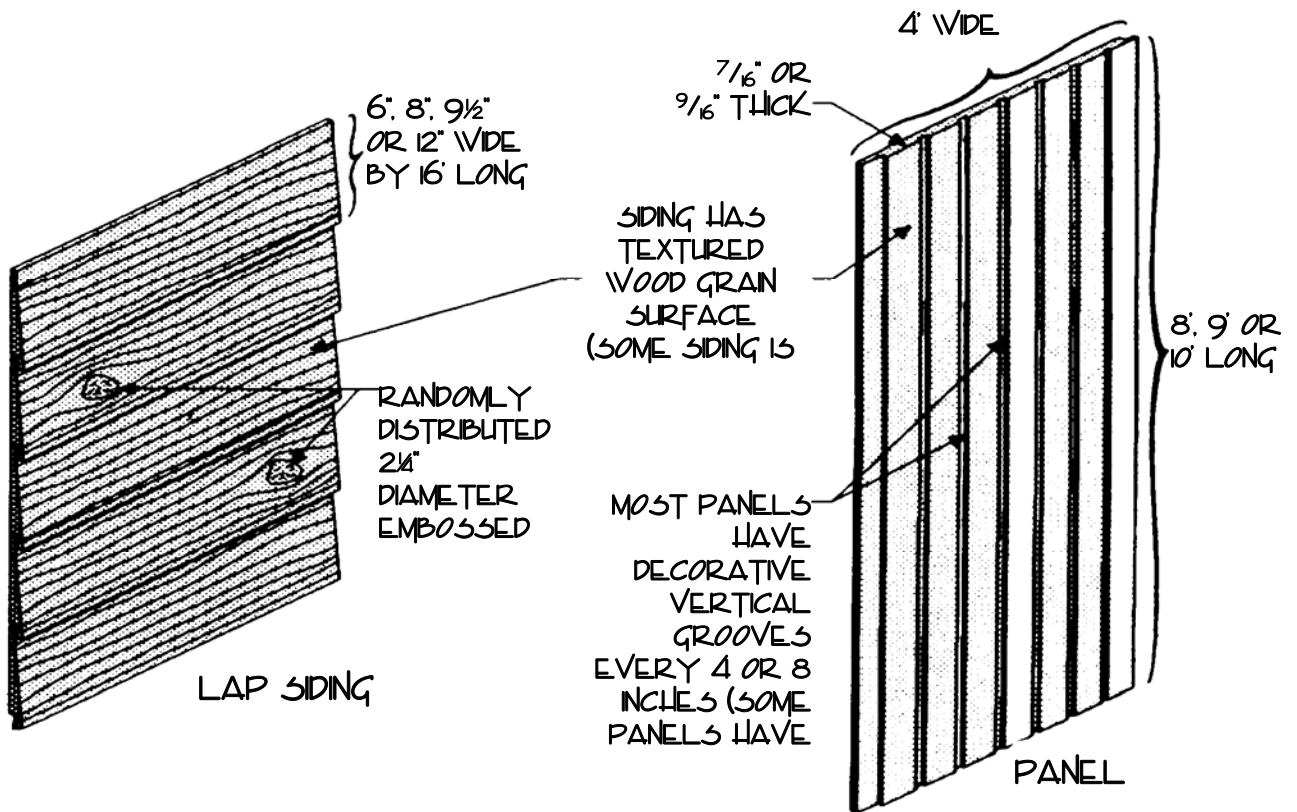
- **CHECK ALL SIDING AND TRIM FOR DAMAGE**
- **CHECK ALL JOINTS AND SEAMS FOR CRACKED OR MISSING SEALANT**
- **CHECK PAINT SURFACE FOR CRACKING, PEELING, FADING OR CHALKING**
- **CHECK THE EXTERIOR OF THE SIDING FOR SIGNS OF MILDEW**
- **CONTROL THE VEGETATION NEXT TO THE SIDING**
- **ENSURE THAT GUTTERS ARE INTACT AND SURFACE WATER IS DRAINED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE**
- **ENSURE THAT THERE IS A MINIMUM OF 6" (15 CM) CLEARANCE FROM THE GROUND**

For more information contact L-P Customer Service, 1-800-648-6893, L-P OSB Sheathing, 1-800-577-4836 or L-P Inner-Seal Siding, 1-800-245-2722, for class action information. Members of the 1995 Settlement Class may call 1-800-642-7398.

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## IDENTIFYING L-P INNER-SEAL SIDING