



Home Tips®



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Q & A

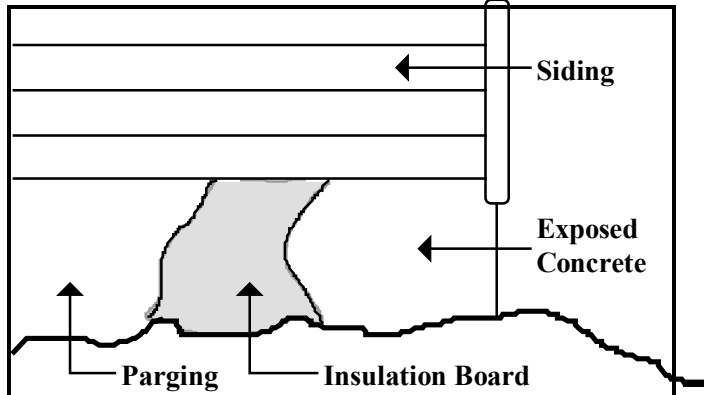
Insulation Below Grade?

We read the November '96 Home Tips about the "Dryvit Below Grade" and we also are having a problem obtaining a termite letter. What can we do to solve the problem?

The solution is very simple: just get rid of the problem by removing the insulated sheathing.

If you have synthetic stucco below grade, we recommend you hire a professional to remove the portion that extends into the ground. They will terminate the material 6" above grade and finish the bottom edge. All you have to do is paint the concrete below the stucco the same color.

If you have perimeter slab insulation, you can correct the problem without hiring a professional.



• CONCRETE PARGING

The concrete parging is a coat of masonry that covers and protects the insulation. A hammer works well in breaking and removing the material. Be sure to wear eye protection.

• INSULATED SHEATHING

The insulated sheathing is probably glued to the concrete. Cut a straight line through the insulation along the bottom lip of the siding. Use the claw of the hammer to break away as much of the insulation as possible. Take a putty knife and scrape away the rest.

• EXPOSED CONCRETE

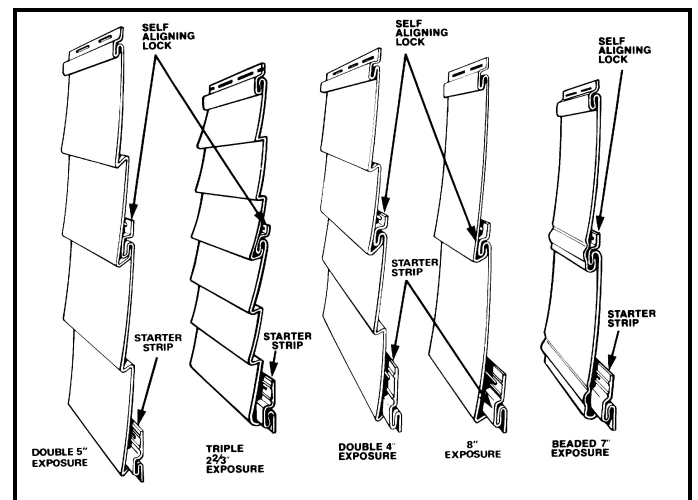
Clean the concrete as well as possible removing any loose particles and dirt. Do not apply anything over the concrete such as stone or siding. The key is to force the termites to build tunnels on the outside of the wall surface where they

can be readily identified. When finished, paint the concrete to match the exterior siding.

Vinyl Siding Option?

The wood siding on our 70 year old house needs painting again. I have mentioned to my husband that vinyl siding might be a better alternative. He tells me that the siding will not last more than 10 to 15 years. If I prevail in this decision and the vinyl performs poorly, I will never hear the end of it. I need your advice. Would you install vinyl siding?

If you take time to select a high-quality vinyl siding, you will have peace and quiet for a very long time. Vinyl siding has come a long way in a very short period of time. It is a great product.



Vinyl siding, when installed with 1/2" insulation board, can actually help insulate your house. This could produce up to 11% savings annually on your heating bills. You will actually recapture part of the installation cost.

The magical performance characteristics of vinyl siding are based in its formulation. All vinyl sidings are made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins. Flexible acrylic resins are often added to make sure the siding doesn't become brittle. Vinyl siding exposed to cold weather, hailstorms or baseballs, needs this flexibility.

Ultraviolet (UV) light will break down vinyl siding. Without adequate protection, low-quality vinyl siding will suffer from severe chalking and faded color. Virtually every kind of vinyl siding has UV inhibitors, but some have more than others. At least one manufacturer has gone a step further, adding an additional layer of sunscreen UV protection on the surface of the vinyl.

