

# Vinyl Siding Maintenance

## **How can I protect vinyl siding from discoloration?**

Cover vinyl siding when using stains, sealants, and wet concrete as part of other home renovation projects. Certain insecticides or herbicides can potentially stain vinyl siding. Consult the product labels and/or the insecticide or herbicide manufacturer before applying.

## **How does heat affect vinyl siding?**

Vinyl siding is made from organic materials and can melt when exposed to a significant heat source. Vinyl is a combustible material, but will not readily ignite unless exposed to flames from an existing fire. Home and building owners with all types of siding should always take precautions to keep heat sources such as barbeque grills, and readily ignitable materials such as dry leaves, mulch, and trash away from the structure

## **Easy to Clean a Recipe for Success**

Vinyl siding is easily cleaned with a soft cloth or soft bristle brush. For textured surfaces, the brush keeps the grooves in the texture stain-free. Small spots of mold and mildew are a breeze to clean with common cleaners such as Fantastik® or Windex®. For larger sections, many homeowners use a solution of vinegar (30%) and water (70%) with great results.

The following solution has proven effective for removing stains on vinyl siding:

1/3 cup powdered laundry detergent

2/3 cup powdered household cleaner

1 quart liquid laundry bleach

1 gallon water

For best results, start at the bottom of the house and work up. Rinse the cleaning solution completely before it dries. If your house has brick facing, cover the brick (and landscaping) so that it is not affected by the runoff.

## **How does heat from reflected light affect vinyl siding?**

Abnormally concentrated sunlight reflected onto vinyl siding by windows can result in surface temperatures far exceeding those caused by direct exposure to the sun. Temperatures necessary to cause significant distortion of vinyl siding are not routinely achieved, even when siding is exposed to both direct sunlight and the reflection from normal, flat window glass. However, under some conditions the glass in energy efficient windows can become concave, forming a mirror that concentrates sunlight in a small area. Temperatures in this area can be greater than many building materials, including vinyl siding, are designed to withstand.

The best way to avoid or reduce this problem depends on the specific circumstances. However, anything that blocks the path of sunlight, either to the window or between the window and the siding, will eliminate or reduce the problem. This includes the strategic placement of trees, bushes or other landscaping elements and the use of sunshades above windows. Screening applied to windows may reduce the total amount of reflected energy sufficiently to avoid the problem.

## **Can I paint vinyl siding?**

Many manufacturers void their warranties if the siding is painted. Check before painting.