

# SOFFITS AND FASCIA DESCRIPTION

## Soffits And Fascia

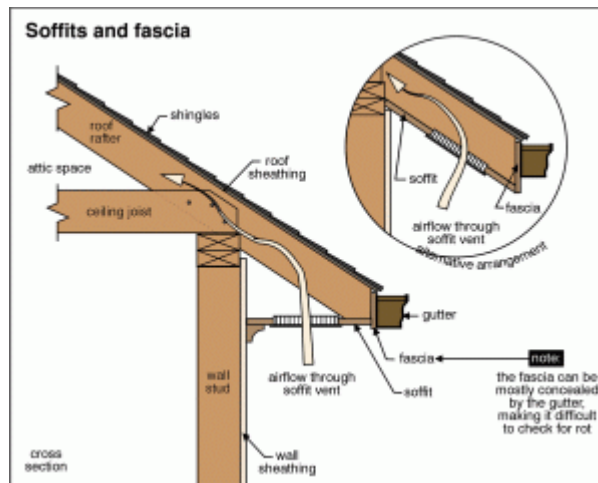
Soffits and fascia enclose the rafter ends at the roof overhang and may be made of several materials. You may not have soffits and fascia. Some architectural styles have open rafters at the eaves and, consequently, no soffits. Across the ends of the rafters, there may or may not be fascia boards behind gutters.

## Materials

Soffits and fascia may be wood, aluminum, fiber-cement, hardboard, OSB, plywood or vinyl, for example. Detailing around soffits can be ornate entablatures which may be wood, stone, or terra cotta.

## Venting Roof Spaces

Many soffits have vents to allow air into the unconditioned roof spaces. Vents higher on the roof allow air to escape from the roof spaces.



## Fascia Is Hard To See

Even when you get up close, it's hard to see the fascia in many cases because it's largely concealed by the gutter. This is unfortunate, because rot at the fascia is a common problem. It may be the result of overflowing, leaking or loose gutters, poor roof detailing or ice damming, for example. There is significant potential for concealed damage around soffits and fascia.

## Two Layers

Many older homes have been resided with aluminum or vinyl siding. It's common for new aluminum or vinyl soffits and fascia to be added at the same time. These often conceal original wood soffits and fascia. Damage can be covered by the new materials.

## Soffit Vents Ineffective

Roof space ventilation often looks great because the new soffit material has continuous louvered vents. However, the wood soffit that has been covered may have little or no venting. Looks can be deceiving!