

# PREPARING THE SURFACE

## 1. FIRST STEPS

- A. Nail down loose boards and replace any rotten ones (Fig. 3.1).
- B. Scrape off loose caulk and re-caulk around windows, doors and other areas to protect from moisture penetration.
- C. Seal all cracks to make house airtight.
- D. Scrape down paint build-up where it may cause uneven trim application.
- E. Remove all protrusions such as gutters, downspouts and light fixtures.
- F. Check all walls for evenness.
- G. Tie back any shrubbery to allow for plenty of working room.

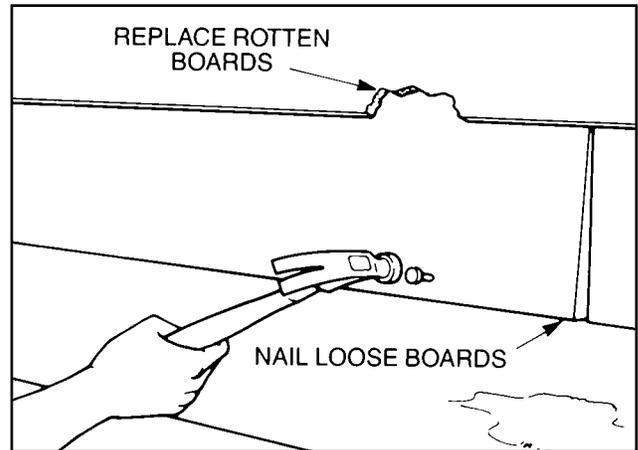


Fig 3.1

## 2. INSULATION

Many types of insulation panels are available to increase the insulation value of exterior walls and provide a level, flat surface for siding installation. Consult insulation manufacturer's recommendations for best surface preparation.

## 3. NEW CONSTRUCTION - WALL PREPARATION

- A. Framing studs should be plumb and positioned uniformly to provide a flat even surface for the sheathing. Using kiln-dried studs for framing will produce the best results.
- B. Wall sheathing can be made of a variety of materials. To obtain the best results, use quality sheathing that will not buckle or warp. Exterior quality wood sheathing should be properly conditioned and fastened. This will eliminate the possibility of swelling and/or distortion caused by unacceptable wall sheathing. Vinyl siding is not designed to correct uneven framing or buckled sheathing.



Fig 3.2

## 3. RE-SIDING - WALL PREPARATION - FURRING, STRAPPING and SHEATHING

- A. Applying weather resistant sheathing over old siding is the fastest, easiest way to provide an even, nailable surface for siding installation.
- B. If not using sheathing, then furring or strapping (usually 1' x 4" wood) should be used on uneven walls or masonry surfaces to provide an even nailable base. Shim out the furring at the high and low spots to get a final even surface.
- C. Furring should be horizontal for vertical siding (Fig. 3.2) and vertical for horizontal siding (Fig. 3.3). Furring should be placed alongside door and window frames and building corners. Accessories should be attached over furring where needed. Do not fur out farther than necessary since the alignment on the finished siding application at windows and doors may be difficult.

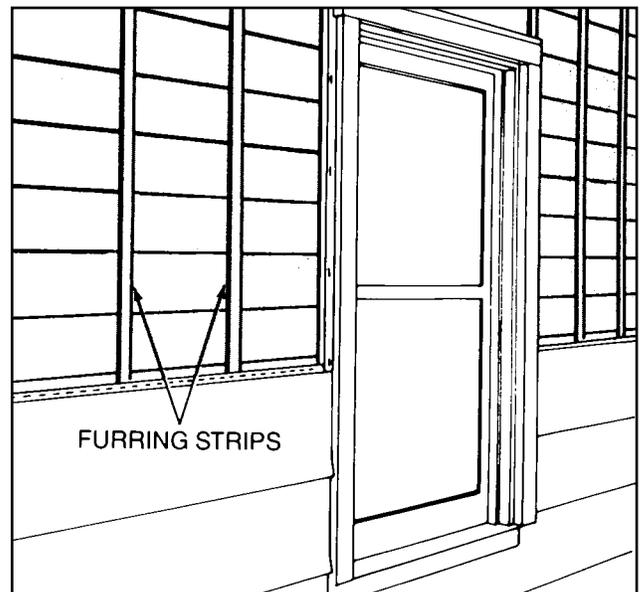


Fig 3.3

## 4. WATER PROOFING

Windows and doors should be adequately caulked and waterproofed before siding and accessories are installed. Flashing should also be used under windows to keep water from getting behind the siding panels.