



Siding Project Deployment Checklist

This checklist is designed for homeowners ready to transform their exterior with board and batten siding. It helps you navigate the complex process from the initial measurements at Home Depot to the final coat of paint, ensuring you avoid costly material shortages and installation errors. Use this list before you launch your renovation to keep your budget and timeline on track.

Phase 1: Planning and Purchasing

- **Confirm your total square footage** Measure height and width of all walls, multiply to get the area, and subtract windows and doors.
- **Calculate 15% for waste material** Write down your net square footage and multiply by 1.15 to account for the complex cuts required by vertical siding.
- **Select the right material type** Decide between vinyl, fiber cement, or engineered wood based on your local climate and maintenance preference.
- **Check local building codes** Verify if your neighborhood association requires specific materials or colors before buying.
- **Order essential accessories** Make sure you list all "invisible" items: starter strips, J-channels, drip caps, and mounting blocks for light fixtures.
- **Arrange proper transport** Ensure you have a truck or delivery service capable of handling 12 to 16-foot panels without breaking them.

Phase 2: Preparation and Installation

- **Inspect the existing sheathing** Remove old siding and check the plywood underneath for soft spots, mold, or rot.
- **Install a fresh weather barrier** Wrap the house in high-quality house wrap (like Tyvek) and tape every single seam meticulously.
- **Flash all windows and doors** Apply flashing tape around openings and install metal drip caps above frames to prevent water intrusion.
- **Mark stud locations** Snap chalk lines on the house wrap to indicate where the studs are so you nail into solid wood.
- **Level the first board perfectly** Use a 4-foot level on the very first panel; if this is crooked, the entire wall will look wrong.
- **Maintain proper expansion gaps** Leave 1/8 inch of space between the siding and trim boards to allow the material to expand in heat.

Phase 3: Finishing and Maintenance



- **Caulk all vertical seams** Apply high-grade exterior caulk wherever the siding butts up against corner posts or window trim.
- **Paint exposed cut edges** Dab primer and paint on any raw edges you cut to seal them against moisture absorption.
- **Clean the gutters immediately** Remove any construction debris from gutters to prevent overflow that could damage the new installation.
- **Schedule a yearly wash** Set a reminder to pressure wash the siding on a low setting once a year to remove dust and algae.
- **Inspect caulking annually** Walk around the house every fall to check for cracked caulk and repair it before winter hits.