

BASIC HOME REPAIR: FASCIA REPLACEMENT

Last years hurricane season left us all with an everlasting lesson...Never doubt the power of water and wind. Securing our homes from the forces of nature will help make them last a lifetime, not to mention protecting our wallets from costly repair bills.

Fascia boards (the horizontal board found at the top of exterior walls, under the roof line) can easily fall into disrepair. When they begin to warp, they will not only detract from the overall look of your home, but will allow water to get into areas that will cause serious structural damage to your home. No, your home will not rot and fall down overnight, but one good season of rain will turn the relatively nominal cost of replacing fascia into a huge expense if water penetrates into the walls and framing of your home.

I agree with the majority of general contractors who believe that "Wood is good, vinyl is final" when selecting a fascia material. If your choice is to go with wood, then lets get it done right to make it last.

Looking up from where you stand, it may appear that the fascia around your home only needs a new coat of paint. Check out each board to make sure that they are still sound, grab a screwdriver or awl and probe at each piece and make sure that the wood has not become spongy or crumbles under the pressure of your test.

Once you identify what needs replacement, remove any other items mounted on the boards, like gutters or moldings. Using a flat pry bar, remove old nails. Measure the replacement area, and use a circular saw set at a 45 degree angle to cut the wood to length. This will allow the boards to overlap and form a more secure joint and seal. Any exterior wood should be primed with two coats of exterior primer on all sides before you apply the two coats of exterior paint. Priming and painting should be done before the new boards are mounted.

To reattach the new fascia board, use a 2" galvanized deck screw. You will need to drill pilot holes into the new board, lining the pilot holes up with the rafter tail. Make sure that the new fascia seals tight at the corners and seams. Apply siliconized acrylic exterior caulk along all edges, and fill in any screw holes and gaps. Replace any gutters or moldings that were removed earlier. A little touch up painting will finish up your project.

SAFETY FIRST! As with all projects, be prepared before you begin. Working on a ladder is tricky, so scaffolding is recommended with this type of project. Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection, and be sure to read the manufacturer's operating manual for any power equipment used.

Thank you to everyone who has been hard at work attending to the maintenance of your homes! Even the smallest of projects add up and make a huge difference. Please feel free to contact me at any time at **281-983-2938**.