Technical Note No. 0002

Staple Attachment of LP® SmartSide® Soffit/Rated Sheathing in Open Soffits

Louisiana-Pacific clearly states in its installation instructions for LP® SmartSide® Soffit "Do Not Use Staples". This restriction is aimed at closed soffit applications where our panel is installed finished side down beneath horizontal framing to box in the tails of the rafters.

For open soffit applications, our installation instructions direct installers to their local building code. For open soffit applications, LP® SmartSide® Soffit must bear an additional dual mark Rated Sheathing because the panel is carrying roof load as structural sheathing. The attachment requirements of structural sheathing are governed by the model building code. From the International Residential Code, Table R602.3 (1) – Fastening Schedule for Structural Members and Table R602.3 (2) – Alternate Attachments say staples (16 ga. with 7/16" min. crown and 1-3/4" legs) may be used to install roof sheathing but must be spaced no more than 3" o.c. at panel ends and 6" at intermediate supports. If the staple is 15 ga., then the minimum schedule is 4" and 8". Other code reports may apply, and the installation would be governed by the provisions of that report.

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