

Technical Bulletin No. 061

Non-Vented Soffit Retrofitted with Aftermarket Vents



LP® SmartSide® and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Non-Vented Soffit (collectively, the “Non-Vented Soffit”) may be fitted with aftermarket soffit vents. LP expressly disclaims all liability for issues arising from or associated with modifications to the Non-Vented Soffit, including, without limitation, moisture issues. LP assumes no liability for, and makes no warranties or representations about, the compatibility or performance of aftermarket vents used in conjunction with the Non-Vented Soffit. The LP® SmartSide® Limited Warranty and LP® SmartSide® ExpertFinish® Limited Warranty may continue to provide coverage, pursuant to its terms, for unaffected portions of the Non-Vented Soffit.

Converting Non-Vented Soffit to vented soffit may be accomplished with aftermarket ventilation products. There are many soffit ventilation products on the market. Some are available with insect screening, and most are available in three or four colors.

The three most common types are:

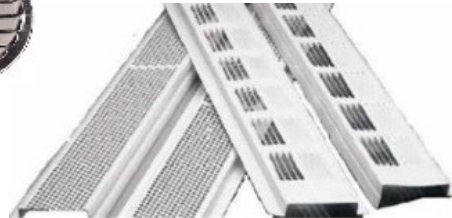
1. Round soffit vents

- Sizes vary from 1.5 inch (38 mm) in width and larger



2. Continuous soffit vents

- Usually 8 feet or longer
- 2.6 inches (66 mm) by 97 inch (2 464 mm)



3. Rectangular soffit vents

- 4.0 inches (102 mm) by 16 inches (406 mm)

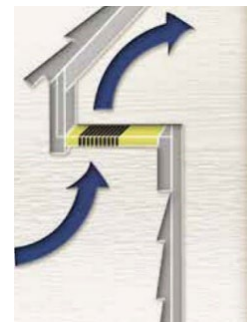


Install ventilation according to vent manufacturers’ requirements. Aftermarket **soffit ventilation openings** need to meet requirements of building codes, including minimum and maximum opening sizes. If the maximum ventilation opening size is exceeded, screening is required. These requirements are intended to prevent the entry of birds, squirrels, rodents, snakes, and other similar creatures. Refer to local building codes and other requirements for your specific application.

Below are examples of typical I-Code requirements:

2021 IRC, Section R806.1, or 2021 IBC, Section 1202.2.2

- Ventilation openings shall have a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum.
- Ventilation opening having a least dimension larger than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) shall be provided with resistant wire cloth screening, corrosion-hardware cloth, perforated vinyl or similar material with openings having a least dimension of 1/16 inch (1.6 mm) minimum and 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) maximum.



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Aftermarket **soffit ventilation** needs to provide a **minimum net free ventilation area** per the requirements of your local building codes.

**Below are examples of typical I-Code requirements:
2021 IRC, Section R806.2, or 2021 IBC, Section 1202.2.1**

The minimum net free ventilation area shall be 1/150 of the area of the vented space.

Exception: The minimum net free area shall be 1/300 of the vented space provided both of the following conditions are met:

1. In Climate Zones 6, 7 and 8, a Class I or II vapor retarder is installed on the warm in-winter side of the ceiling.
2. Not less than 40 percent and not more than 50 percent of the required ventilating area is provided by ventilators located in the upper portion of the attic or rafter space. Upper ventilators shall be located not more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or the highest point of the space, measured vertically. The balance of the required ventilation provided shall be located in the bottom one-third of the attic space. Where the location of wall or roof framing members conflict with the installation of upper ventilators, installation more than 3 feet (914 mm) below the ridge or highest point of the space shall be permitted.

Accordingly:

- To meet the **1/150** requirement, a minimum net free ventilation area of **960 square inches** is required for each 1,000 square feet of ceiling area.
- To meet the **1/300** requirement, a minimum net free ventilation area of **480 square inches** is required for each 1,000 square feet of ceiling area.

Net free ventilation area refers to the clear open area of a vent, considering the restrictions of the vent screening itself and the dimensions of the vent slots. Information on the actual net free area of ventilation provided by each soffit vent can be obtained from the product manufacturer to verify compliance with the I-Codes.

