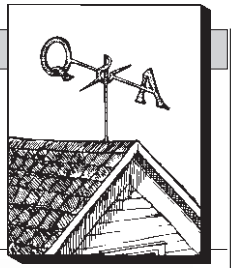
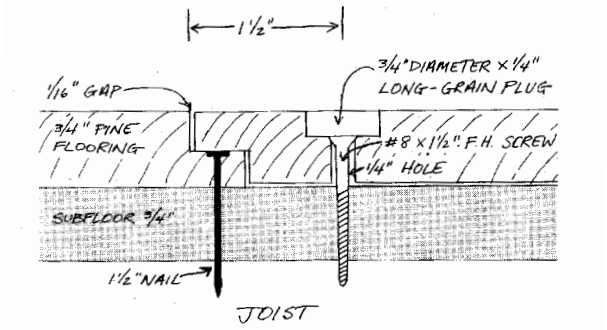


Pneumatics for Wood Roofs

by Henry Spies



Q. *What types of power fasteners can be used with red cedar shingles? Do some types corrode?*

A. Power-driven nails can be stainless-steel or hot-dipped galvanized. Staples should be stainless. If ordinary steel staples or nails are used, the tannic acid in cedar, which is leached out by water, will corrode the fasteners. Zinc-plated nails or staples do not have a thick enough coating to resist this. As for stainless steel, the Red Cedar Shingle & Shake Bureau recommends type 304 or 316, the latter offering the best protection. A fact sheet on fasteners and source listing of suppliers is available from the Bureau (515 116th Ave. N.E., Suite 275, Bellevue, WA 98004).

Wide Pine Flooring

Q. *What is the preferred way to install wide pine flooring! What type of nails and spacing should be used? Is face-nailing necessary?*

A. The best approach is to put a half-lap on the boards. Each board is then nailed through the bottom lap. The overlapping board is secured with #8 flat-head screws recessed below the surface and driven through oversized (¼-inch) pilot holes. Fill the recess holes (¾-inch x ¼-inch deep) with long-grain plugs. Leave about 1/16-inch clearance from one board to the next (see illustration above).

The spacing between boards and oversized holes allow enough room for the boards to expand and contract about 1/16 inch without splitting, yet the top edge of each lap will be held down tight.

One nail plus one screw at each joist should be adequate for boards up to 12-inches wide. Wider boards might need another screw at each joist.

Rating Fir Clapboards

Q. *How do fir clapboards compare with cedar in their ability to hold paint and stain, and withstand the elements?*

A. Fir siding holds paint and stain quite well. But if it is not kept painted or stained, the durability is not as great as cedar. Cedar has a natural preservative which will take over if the surface is not protected. That is not true with fir. Our office has stained rough-sawn fir vertical siding, and it takes a coat of opaque stain every seven years to maintain the wood and its appearance.

Chimney Leak Mystery

Q. *On one job, we are getting leakage around the chimney after long, heavy rains. The flashing looks fine. Any suggestions?*

A. There are several possibilities to be considered. One is that the water is soaking into the brick and being conducted down the chimney. This can occur with raked joints, or an inadequate chimney cap. The chimney cap is particularly important because water can be conducted between wythes or between the brick and the flue liner if it can enter at the top. A second possibility is that the water is working sidewise off the edges of the flashing after a prolonged rain. This can be prevented if the edge of the flashing is hemmed or folded over. A third place to check is the flashing at the bottom corners of the chimney. This is the most difficult point to flash, and a soldered flashing is almost a must. Differential movement between the roof and the chimney can also cause this flashing to open. There can be as much as ½-inch of vertical movement between the roof and the chimney from winter to summer. ■

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