

# BARK SIDING INSTALLATION GUIDE

## Acclimating your Bark Siding

As one of the most perdurable natural “green” siding products, bark will respond and react to the environment. Natural bark will swell and shrink as it strives to reach equilibrium with the moisture content in the surrounding atmosphere. Ensuring your bark has reached equilibrium before installation will minimize movement after installation. On the job site, keep the bark dry. Stack siding off the ground and under cover. If the bark is to be stored over damp ground or concrete, place a moisture barrier under the siding. Stored siding should be 4 to 6 in. above the ground with air circulating freely around and throughout the stack. Acclimatization time varies with the moisture content of the environment and siding (2-3 weeks should be sufficient).

## Preparation

1. Whether new construction or remodeling, insure a “sound” sub-surface such as plywood (minimum of 1/2”) is properly installed.

**Flashing** Flashings associated with doors, windows, and penetrations should be in accordance with good building practice and local code. Install flashing under house wrap at sill plate to facilitate drainage. As always check with your local building official.

2. Properly install quality brand of house wrap in accordance with manufactures instructions.

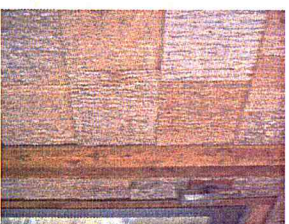
4. Prior to installing any bark, a rot resistant “kicker” board approximately 2 1/2” x 1/2” thick should be nailed 1/2” above the bottom edge of the first course of bark to provide a protruding bottom.

**Ground Clearance** Keep the lowest edge of siding at least 8 in. off the ground/surface and coat end grain at the bottom of vertical siding with quality water repellent.

Corners can be completed in one of two different looks, as shown below:



“Butt Lap”



“Corner Trim Boards”

Either way will give a clean professional look!

**Note:** If your window/door trim does not extend far enough out to conceal the bark edge, a quick professional looking solution is to rip a piece of 1x approximately 3/8” wider then two thickness’ of bark and turn them up to the window/door trim to “butt” the bark into. See corner board detail above.

Our bark comes in 18” and 24” standard height. We require a minimum of 2” lap on all installations, however, the “exposure” is a personal preference. One factor to consider is the size of the structure – a 16” or 22” exposure may be too much on a single story and a 7” exposure may not be enough on a large surface.

**Fasteners** Fasteners shall be aluminum, stainless steel, zinc-coated or other code approved corrosion-resistant fastener. We recommend 16d galvanized nails.

Install fasteners parallel to the bottom edge. Fasteners should be long enough to penetrate into the sheathing at least 3/4” or all the way through and driven flush with the surface of the bark. Spacing should be every 4-6”, and in 1” from the bottom and edges. Fasten at top near the center to hold until the next course is installed, which when properly fastened will secure the top of the lapped course below.

**Note:** Nails should be driven with care. Heavy nailing distorts the bark and may cause splitting. At mitered corners, near edges and near ends, nail holes may need to be pre-drilled to avoid splitting.

**Note:** On exposures of 6” or greater a row of fasteners 6-10” apart should be installed near the center of the exposure. (On narrow pieces one fastener near the center of exposure should be sufficient)

**Note:** On pieces too small to meet the above fastening guidance a minimum of 2 fasteners is recommended on the bottom with 1 at the top and middle if needed.

## Bark Application

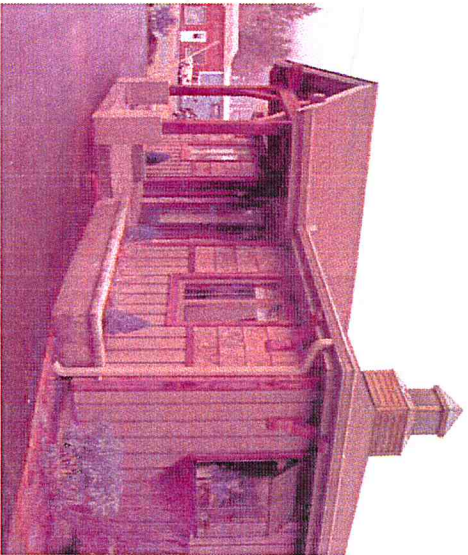
5. Starting in a corner or at a trim board, fasten the first piece. Continue with the next holding it firmly to the previous one until it is fastened. Once you have the first course installed Layer 30lb roofing felt 1 1/2” over the top of first course.

6. Determine your exposure and using a straight edge, secure it lightly to the wall with the edge at the bottom of the lap line (minimum 2” lap) to keep courses straight and level or snap a chalkline. Check for level every 3 or 4 courses. Offset all joints in any one course at least 2” over joints in previous courses.

7. On the final course fasten the top every 4”, and in 1” from the top and edge of the bark.

*Hardin Creek Timber Frame  
and Millwork, Inc*

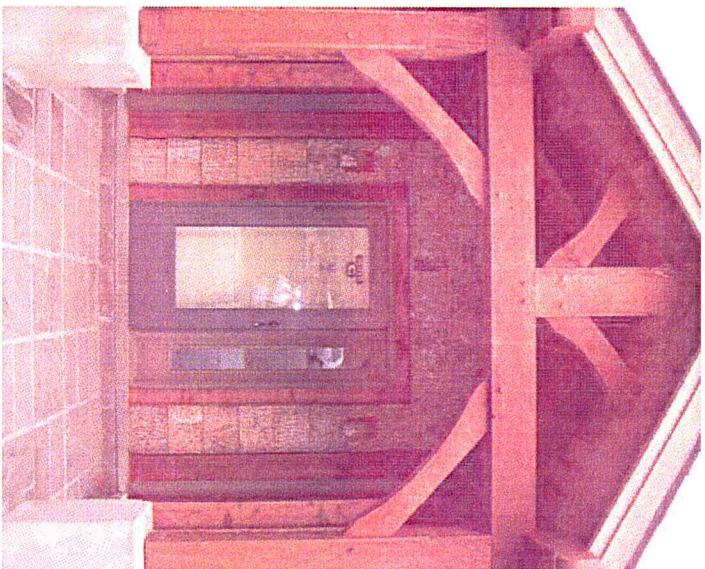
**NATURAL BARK SIDING**



**Hardin Creek Timber Frame and Millwork, Inc.** is proud to introduce our newest product. We pride ourselves on manufacturing the highest grade "bark siding" available! Rest assured when you purchase our product you are getting the absolute best in the market!

Bark is the trees natural protector and has been a popular siding for centuries. It started with the Chestnut-bark which was used until blight destroyed the "Great American Chestnut" in the 1930s. It has been replaced with other barks such as Poplar. Like any wood product, bark is subject to changing with the local climate. Naturally resistant to the elements bark will keep its appearance for generations to come.

We work with our harvesters to ensure "Quality" is their "top" priority. Our bark is harvested immediately after the tree is felled. It's then inspected, loaded on beds and delivered to our plant, where it is re-inspected, counted, sorted and graded.



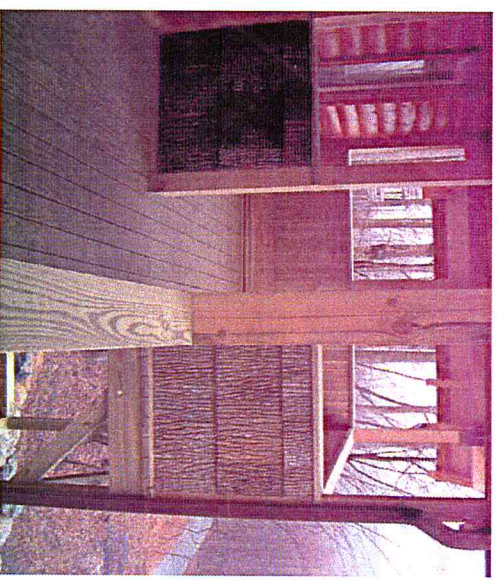
**371 Daniel Boone Dr.**

**Boone, NC 28607**

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It is then prepared for the kiln in special racks designed to ensure uniform drying at the same time keeping the bark flat throughout the drying process. We kiln dry our bark on site to stabilize the moisture content and ensure insects (and larva), fungi and mold are not living within the cells. Once the drying is complete we let it re-acclimate to establish equilibrium moisture content, then square trim each piece to the random length you receive. The bark is then palletized and wrapped. It's then stored in a covered shed until delivery.

Bark has been used inside houses, on walls and as window accents. It's used around porches and hot tub enclosures as well as exterior walls or just to accent the gables or dormers. Natural bark can be used in numerous applications.



*Your imagination is your limitation!*