



Ambara® Maintenance Guide



AMBARA® SIDING MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Overview Nova USA Wood's Ambara® is a premium thermally modified siding product that offers exceptional durability and stability. With proper maintenance, your Ambara® siding will provide years of beautiful, reliable performance while maintaining its structural integrity and aesthetic appeal.

INITIAL CARE & SETUP

Pre-Installation Finishing

- Critical: Apply finish to all sides of Ambara® boards before installation
- Use recommended oil/water-based stains and paints
- Pre-stain nail heads to save time during touch-ups
- Allow proper drying time between coats per manufacturer instructions

Installation Quality Check

Ensure your installation meets these standards:

- Stainless steel fasteners (304 grade standard, 316 for coastal areas)
- Proper spacing: 1/16" gaps for 1x4 boards, 1/8" for wider boards
- Weather-resistant barrier installed behind siding • Proper flashing at all penetrations and material changes
- Minimum 6" clearance above grade, 2" above roof lines

REGULAR MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE ANNUAL INSPECTIONS (SPRING/FALL)

Visual Assessment:

- Check for finish wear, fading, or damage
- Inspect caulking around windows, doors, and corners
- Look for loose or missing fasteners
- Examine flashing integrity
- Check for insect damage or signs of moisture intrusion

Documentation:

- Photograph any areas of concern
- Note finish condition and coverage
- Record any repairs needed

SEASONAL CARE

Spring Maintenance:

- Clean siding with mild detergent and water
- Remove debris from horizontal surfaces
- Check and clean gutters to prevent overflow
- Inspect caulking after winter freeze/thaw cycles
- Touch up finish as needed

Summer Maintenance:

- Monitor for UV degradation in high-exposure areas
- Check for insect activity (especially carpenter bees and termites)
- Ensure adequate ventilation behind rainscreen installations
- Apply finish touch-ups during optimal weather conditions

Fall Preparation:

- Clean and inspect all horizontal surfaces
- Remove leaves and debris from around foundation
- Check drainage to ensure water flows away from structure
- Inspect and maintain gutters and downspouts

Winter Monitoring:

- Check for ice dam formation
- Ensure adequate clearance from snow accumulation
- Monitor for moisture infiltration during freeze/thaw cycles

FINISH MAINTENANCE INSPECTION CRITERIA

Recoat When You Notice:

- Fading or color changes
- Chalking of finish surface
- Wood beginning to gray/silver (if unwanted)
- Finish wear at high-exposure areas
- Loss of water repellency

REFINISHING PROCESS

Surface Preparation:

- Clean thoroughly with mild detergent
- Allow to dry completely
- Light sanding if needed for adhesion
- Remove all dust and debris

Application:

- Follow manufacturer's instructions exactly
- Apply during appropriate weather conditions
- Maintain wet edge during application
- Allow proper drying time between coats

Touch-Up Protocol:

- Address small areas immediately
- Feather edges to blend with existing finish
- Use same product and color as original application

Caulking & Sealant Maintenance Inspection Points

- Window and door perimeters
- Corner board connections
- Material transition points
- Penetrations (vents, outlets, fixtures)
- Horizontal trim boards

Caulking Replacement Indicators

- Cracking or shrinkage
- Loss of adhesion
- Discoloration or mold growth
- Gaps or missing sections

Best Practices

- Use high-performance exterior-grade caulks
- Never caulk where flashing meets trim
- Remove old caulk completely before reapplication
- Prime surfaces if recommended by manufacturer

MOISTURE MANAGEMENT CRITICAL MAINTENANCE AREAS

Flashing Systems:

- Keep drainage channels clear
- Ensure proper slope (30-degree minimum)
- Check for corrosion or damage
- Verify siding clearance (1/4" above flashing)

Drainage:

- Maintain proper grade slope away from foundation
- Keep gutters and downspouts clear
- Ensure adequate roof overhang protection
- Check that furring strips allow proper air circulation

Ventilation:

- Verify air gap maintenance in rainscreen systems
- Clear any blocked ventilation paths