



**Installation Instructions for  
Shakes Siding Panels**

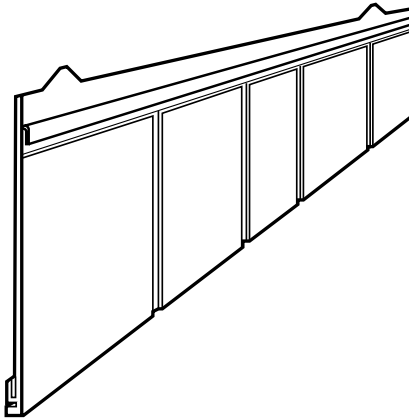
# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHAKE SIDING PANELS

Vytec provides these instructions as installation guidelines. However, Vytec neither installs the siding panels nor has any control over the installation. It is the responsibility of the contractor and/or the Installer to ensure Vytec siding panels are installed in accordance with these instructions and any applicable building codes. Vytec assumes no liability for improper installation and/or personal injury and/or property damage resulting from improper use or installation.

These installation instructions should not be construed as the only possible way to install this siding. Field conditions may dictate different methods. It is the responsibility of the siding Installer to determine the best methods to use. Reference Building Codes for additional requirements.

## 1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW.

Single 7" Cedar Shakes



## 2. FEATURES

### 2.1 Continuous top and bottom lock

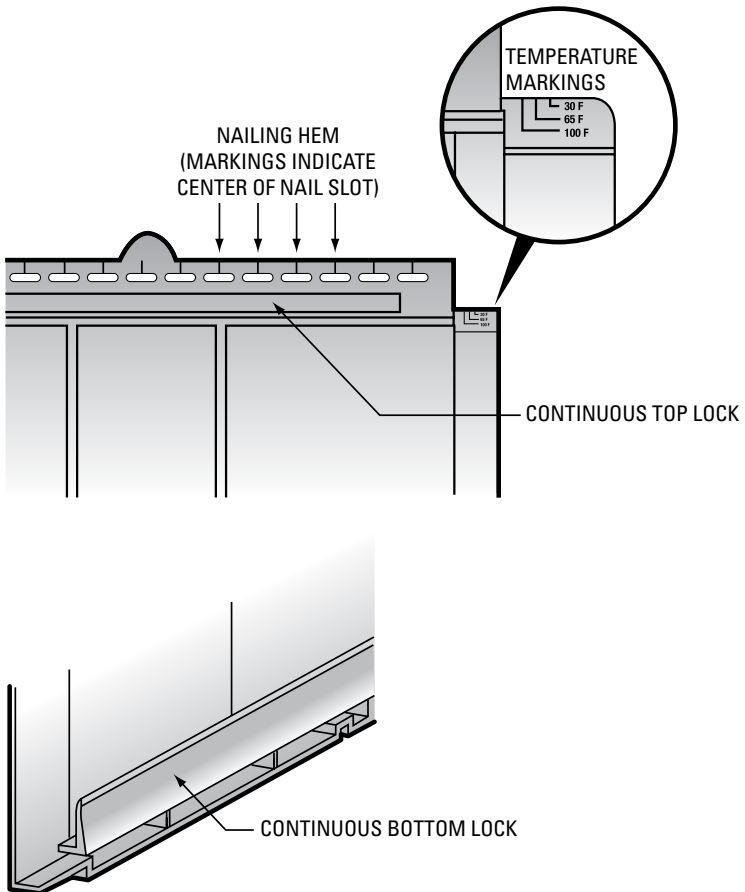
Vytec siding panels are manufactured with top and bottom continuous locks to insure the panels are lightly secured to each other.

### 2.2 Engineered nailing hem

The specially engineered nailing hem features right-sized nail slots designed to allow proper expansion and contraction of individual panels to accommodate for natural fluctuations in temperature.

### 2.3 Temperature markings

Temperature markings are included in each panel to designate the proper gap between panels during installation. (See section 4.4 for details)



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### 3. ACCESSORIES REQUIRED FOR PROPER INSTALLATION

Standard siding accessories, with a minimum  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pocket width (such as the J-Channel, inside and outside corner posts, window and door trim) can be used with Vytec siding panels.

#### 3.1 Starter strip

The special shake starter strip is recommended for use with Single 7" profile.

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### 4. APPLICATION TECHNIQUE

#### 4.1 Tools Required

- Hammer
- Pencil
- Snips (Tin)
- Level
- Chalk line
- Utility knife
- Tape measure
- Nail slot-punch

**NOTE: Always use safety goggles when using hand or power tools.**

#### 4.1.1 Methods to cutting panels.

For ease of installation, Vytec recommends the use of a circular saw with blade installed so blade is spinning backwards. Siding can be cut with snips or standard utility knife if needed.

#### 4.2 Always build wall left to right.

All Vytec siding panels are designed to be installed left to right, which is the industry standard. Right to left installation may be possible in certain circumstances.

##### Installation over various substrates.

NOTE: For applications requiring engineering evaluation of wind load parameters, please contact Vytec at:

**Vytec Corporation**  
**803 Belden Road**  
**Jackson, MI 49203**  
**Attn: Consumer Services**

##### Nail based sheathings.

It is recommended to work over a smooth, flat, wall surface.

Nails should penetrate a nail based  $\frac{7}{16}$ " minimum.

##### Non-nail based sheathings.

For any non-nailable sheathing, Vytec recommends that all nails be driven through the sheathing and into the structural framing a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

#### 4.3 Start rows with random lengths.

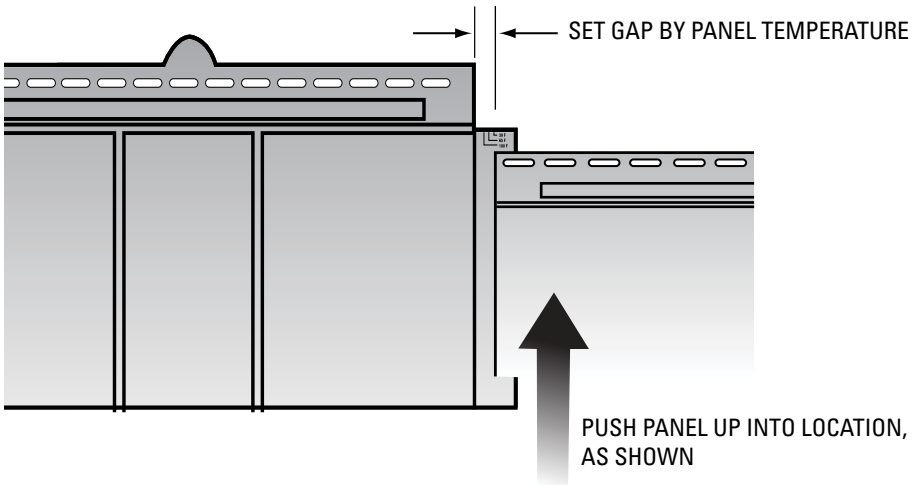
Care should be taken to not use the same length starter panel on the same wall.

This wall will minimize the chance of creating a pattern. Cut panels should only be used to start and terminate a course. The minimum panel length should be 16".

#### 4.4 Setting the panel gap for temperature.

It is important to have the proper amount of gap because the siding panels will expand and contract with a change in temperature. Each siding panel has temperature markings indicating the proper panel spacing during installation. It is important to set the panel gap based on panel temperature and not air temperature.

Air Temperature Range in °F	Position on temperature marking gauge
91°F and above	On the 100°F line
90°F - 76°F	Between 65°F and the 100°F lines
75°F - 56°F	On the 65°F line
55°F - 41°F	Between 30°F and the 65°F lines
40°F and below	On the 30°F line



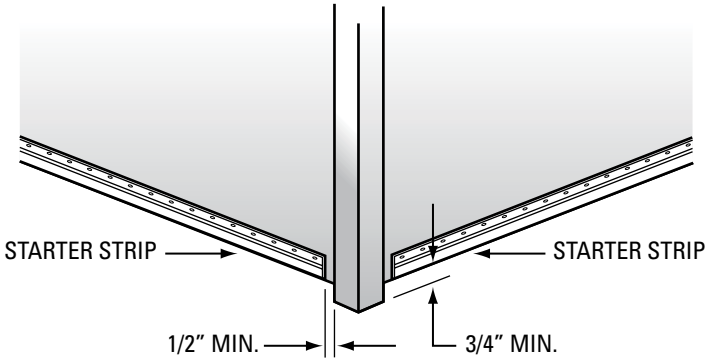
#### 4.5 Installing the initial course.

##### 4.5.1 Starter strip

Install starter strips at the lowest point of the structure making sure they are level. Leave a minimum of ½" gap between the starter strips and any type of trim components (J-channel, inside or outside corner post.).

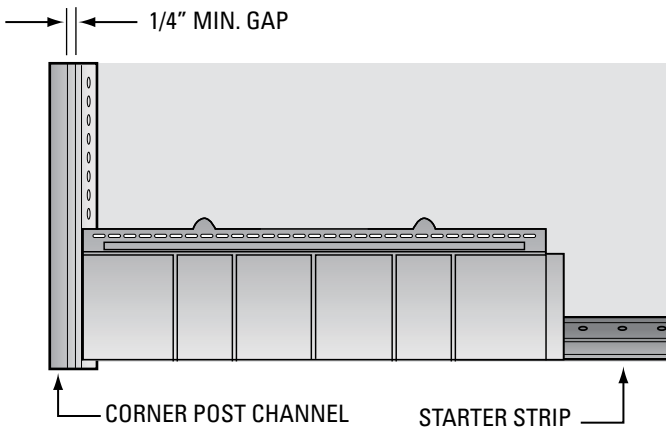
##### 4.5.2 Inside and outside corner posts

Corner post and corner trim (J-channel) must be installed before any panels are nailed into position. Corner posts must extend a minimum of ¾" below the starter strip.

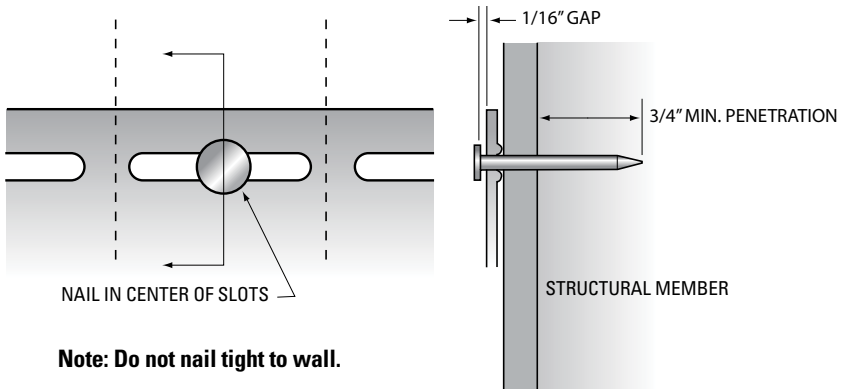


#### 4.5.3 Starting the first course

To install the first siding panel cut a straight edge on the side that is to be inserted into the corner trim channel. Hook the bottom lock into the starter strip and slide the panel into the corner trim channel. Keep the siding panel a minimum of 1/4" away from the inside edge of the corner trim channel. This allows for expansion of the siding panel.



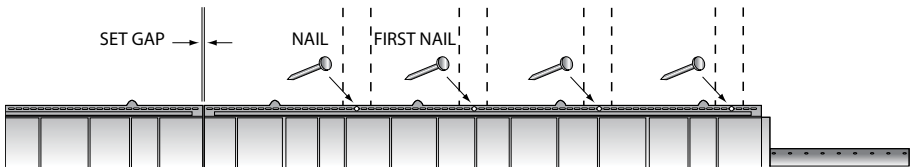
Nail the siding panel to the structural member (stud or nail base) closest to the center of the panel and working out to the ends. Nail spacing cannot exceed 16". All nails located in the nailing hem must be driven until there is a 1/16" gap between the nail head and the siding panel. This allows for expansion and contraction of the siding panel. Nails must be located in the center of nailing slots.



**Note: Do not nail tight to wall.**

Vytec siding panels must be nailed at a minimum frequency of 16". A 3/4" minimum nail penetration to a structural member (stud or nail base) is required. Install the second panel by hooking onto the starter strip and overlapping the male side lock (Temperature markings section 4.4).

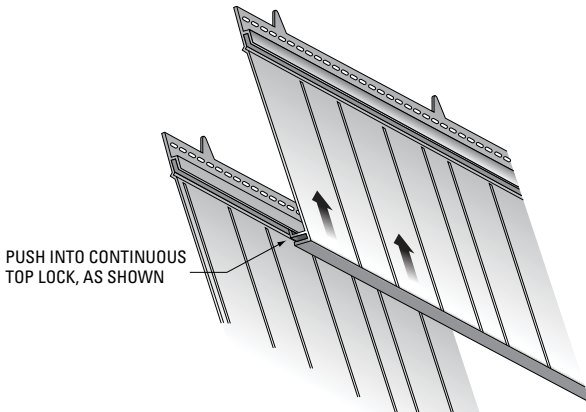
Position the second panel to the required gap for expansion and nail into location. Start by nailing the panel in the center area and working out.



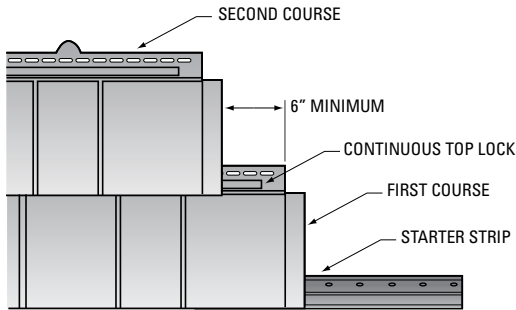
Continue with this process until the first course is completed remembering to leave a minimum 1/4" gap for the last panel into the corner trim channel.

#### 4.6 Installing the second and subsequent courses

Start each subsequent course with random length siding panels to prevent a repetitive joint or grain pattern. When applying your first piece make sure the continuous bottom lock is fully engaged with the continuous top lock of the previous course.



Make sure a minimum of 6" of the continuous top lock is remaining exposed for the next panel to lock onto.



Position the next panel for the required gap for expansion and nail into place.

#### 4.7 Mansard Roofs

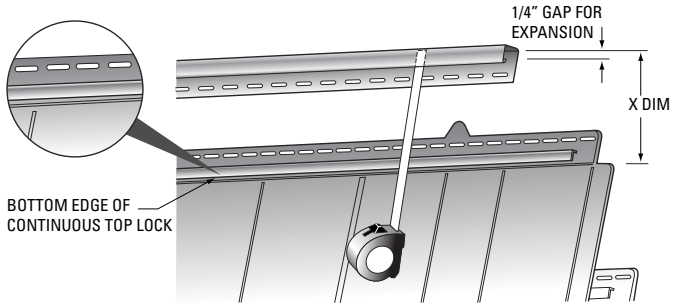
With a 45/12 slope or greater are acceptable applications when installed over a weather barrier rated for the application.



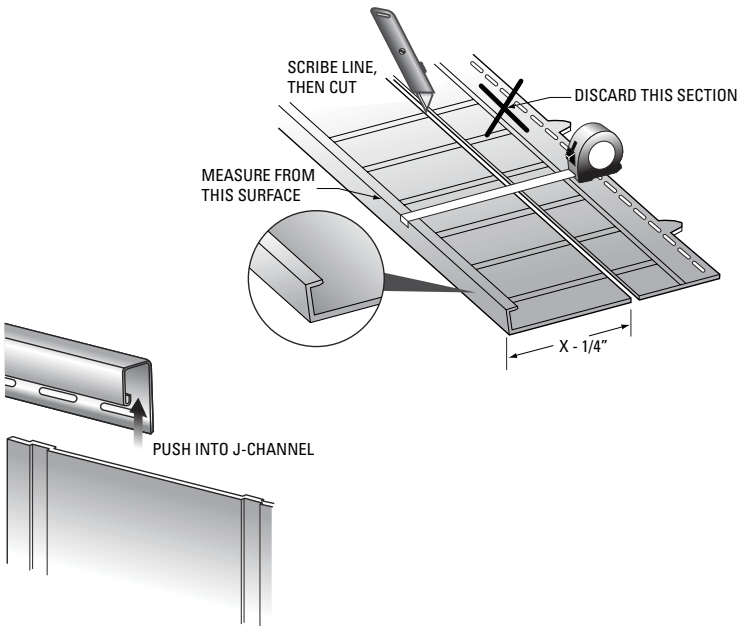
## 5. TRIMMING

### 5.1 Installing final course

Use J-channel or Cornice receiver and Cornice molding to finish the final course. Measure from the inside of the trim channel down to the bottom edge of the continuous top lock minus  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". This is the height dimension for the final course.



Lay the panel face down and measure from the bottom lock up. Cut the panel to the desired height.



If using a 2-piece channel system, apply channel receiver. Create nail slots every 16" to cut panel and fasten to wall. Snap on J-channel face piece.

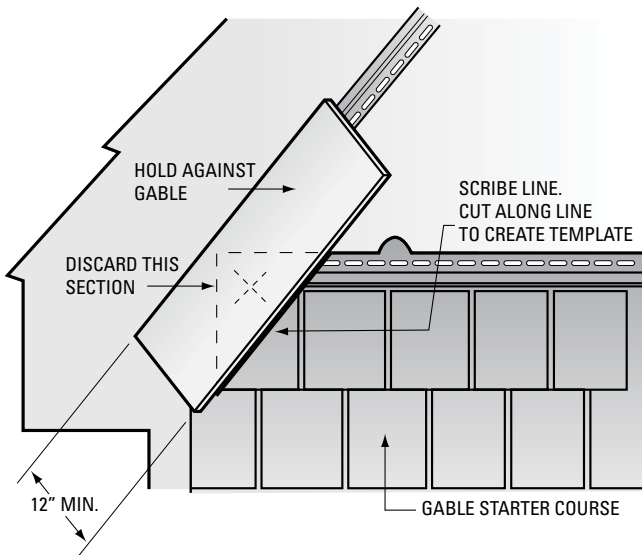
## 5. TRIMMING - continued

### 5.2 Trimming around openings

Measure and cut panels for around openings allowing  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for expansion. Follow the same instructions as in section 5.1 for measuring and installing around openings.

### 5.3 Trimming gables

It is recommended that a template be made for a guide when fitting and cutting panels for gables. Any scrap wood or material at least 12" wide can be utilized to make the guide. Snap into location any scrap of panel into the gable starter course. With the 12" wide scrap material placed against the bottom of the gable, scribe a line onto the scrap panel.



Cut along the line and now you have a gable template. Use the template to cut all gable mating panels remembering to maintain a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " gap for expansion inside all trim channels.

### 5.4 Trimming fixtures

Fixtures cannot be attached directly to the siding. Always use a block or a J-box to attach fixtures. Drill a hole slightly larger than the diameter of the fasteners, allowing for expansion and contraction. Note that fasteners must penetrate the solid substrate.

## 6. TIPS

Care should be taken to not use the same length starter panel on the same wall. This will minimize the chance of creating a pattern. Cut panels should only be used to start and terminate a course. The minimum panel length should be 16".

Always start at the lowest point of the structure.

Nailing the panels should not restrict movement. Nails should be driven straight into the center of any nailing slots leaving about 1/16" between the nail head and the panel. Allow ¼" clearance in receiving channels.

To ensure panels are hanging straight and level, every 5-6 course stretch a chalk line across the wall and use as a guide.

Always store siding panels flat. Never bend siding panels.

Read installation instructions thoroughly.

buildingresponsibly™



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For additional information visit our Web site at [www.vytec.com](http://www.vytec.com) or call 1-800-265-2230.