



## Wavy Vinyl Siding

Wavy vinyl siding, characterized by its uneven, wave-like surface, is a common issue that can affect the aesthetic of a home's exterior. Minor waves protruding a half inch or less from the sheathing are to be expected. Some of the causes may be due to installation, however some causes are beyond the installer's control.

### 1. Causes of Wavy Vinyl Siding under the installer's control:

- Improper Installation
  - Over-nailing restricts the natural expansion and contraction of the material.
  - Conversely, if the siding is too loose, it can sag and create a wavy appearance.
  - Nails should not be driven in all the way; a slight gap should be left to allow for movement.
- Structural Deflection
  - Warped sheathing: If the underlying sheathing is not flat, it can cause the siding to appear wavy.
  - Uneven wall framing: Walls that are not perfectly plumb can lead to wavy siding.

### 2. Causes of wavy siding beyond the installer's control:

- Thermal Expansion and Contraction
  - Vinyl siding expands when heated and contracts when cooled. This is a natural characteristic of the material.
  - Temperature fluctuations throughout the day can cause slight waviness as the siding adjusts.
  - Some minor waves are common and considered acceptable.
- Material Properties
  - Vinyl is inherently more flexible than other siding materials like wood or metal.
  - This flexibility can lead to minor imperfections in straightness over large surface areas.
- Sunlight and Heat Exposure
  - Prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, especially on south-facing walls, can increase the temperature of the siding.
  - Localized heating can cause temporary expansion and waviness.



## Wavy Vinyl Siding Continued

### 3. Prevention

- Proper Installation Techniques
  - Ensure nails are placed in the center of the nailing slots to allow for expansion and contraction.
  - Use a nail spacing of approximately 16 inches on center.
  - Do not drive nails tightly against the siding. Leave a 1/32 inch gap between the nail head and the siding.
- Use of proper underlayment
  - Use appropriate underlayment and ensure that the sheathing is flat and securely attached.
  - Adequate Wall Preparation: Inspect and correct any issues with wall framing and sheathing before installation.

### 4. Remedies for Wavy Vinyl Siding:

- Repair
  - Inspection and Correction of Underlying Issues: Check for and fix any underlying structural deflection such as warped sheathing or uneven wall framing.
  - Adjusting Existing Siding: For minor issues, loosening over-nailed sections and properly re-nailing can mitigate waviness.
- Replacement
  - Replacing Affected Sections: If certain sections are more affected than others, replacing only those sections with new, properly installed siding can be a solution.

*Excessive wavy vinyl siding is often a result of installation errors, material issues, or structural deflection (some minor waves are common and acceptable). Proper installation techniques and thorough preparation of the installation surface are critical to preventing this issue. Addressing wavy siding involves correcting installation practices, adjusting or replacing affected sections, and ensuring the underlying structure is sound. Adhering to these guidelines will provide an aesthetically pleasing vinyl siding finish.*

Technical Services Team

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