NEW BRUNSWICK RENOVATIONS

Siding & Exterior

Exterior siding options, installation, soffit, fascia, house wrap, and exterior cladding for NB's Maritime climate

16 Expert Answers from Reno IQ

newbrunswickrenovations.com/construction-brain

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Q1

How much does it cost to replace a front porch on a New Brunswick home?

Front porch replacement in New Brunswick typically costs $8,000-$25,000 depending on size, materials, and structural complexity. A basic 8x12 foot covered porch with pressure-treated framing and composite decking runs $12,000-$18,000, while larger porches with stone columns, cedar ceiling, and premium railings can reach $25,000-$35,000.

The biggest cost driver is **foundation requirements**. In New Brunswick's freeze-thaw climate, porch footings must extend 4-5 feet below grade to prevent frost heaving. Concrete footings and frost walls typically add $2,000-$5,000 to the project but are absolutely essential — shallow foundations will shift and crack within 2-3 winters. Many older NB homes have porches built on inadequate foundations that need complete replacement rather than repair.

Material choices significantly impact cost. Pressure-treated lumber framing with composite decking (Trex, TimberTech) costs $15-$25 per square foot for materials. Cedar or mahogany decking runs $20-$35 per square foot but requires annual maintenance in NB's Maritime climate. Vinyl or aluminum railings cost $25-$50 per linear foot installed, while custom wood railings run $75-$150 per linear foot. Metal roofing over the porch adds $8-$12 per square foot but lasts 40+ years versus asphalt shingles at $4-$7 per square foot with 25-year lifespan.

Structural complexity affects pricing. Replacing a simple open deck-style porch costs $100-$150 per square foot. Adding a roof structure increases costs to $150-$250 per square foot. Enclosed three-season porches with windows and screens run $200-$300 per square foot. If the existing porch is attached to the house structure and removal requires modifying siding, trim, or roofing, add $2,000-$5,000 for restoration work.

New Brunswick's **coastal and river valley locations** require upgraded materials. Homes near the Bay of Fundy, Saint John River, or Northumberland Strait need stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized fasteners to resist salt air corrosion. Standard zinc-coated screws and nails fail within 5-7 years in coastal NB conditions. Marine-grade caulking and flashing add $500-$1,000 but prevent water infiltration that causes structural rot.

Timing matters for cost and quality. Schedule porch replacement between May and October when concrete can cure properly and materials won't be damaged by freezing temperatures. Starting in late summer allows the new porch to weather-seal before winter. Contractors are busiest June through August, so spring and fall scheduling often yields better pricing and availability.

Permits are typically required for porch replacement since it involves structural work and new footings. Building permits in NB municipalities run $150-$500 depending on project scope. The contractor should handle permit applications and ensure the structure meets current building code requirements for snow loads, railings heights, and structural connections.

Most homeowners should **hire professionals for porch replacement**. The project involves concrete work, structural framing, roofing, and proper flashing details that prevent water infiltration into the house structure. Poor workmanship creates expensive problems — inadequate footings cause structural failure, improper flashing leads to rot in the house framing, and code violations create issues at resale.

Get **three detailed quotes** from experienced contractors with WorkSafeNB coverage and recent porch references. Quotes should specify foundation depth, lumber grades, fastener types, and warranty terms. Budget 15-20% contingency since removing old porches often reveals hidden issues with house siding, rim joists, or existing foundation problems.

Need help finding an experienced contractor for your porch replacement? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals who understand NB's climate requirements and building code standards.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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Q2

What is the cost of installing new exterior stairs on a home in Moncton NB?

New exterior stairs in Moncton typically cost $2,000-$8,000 depending on materials, size, and complexity, with concrete steps at the lower end and custom wood or composite stairs with railings at the higher end.

The most common exterior stair projects in Moncton involve replacing deteriorated front entrance steps or adding stairs to new deck or patio door installations. **Basic concrete steps** (3-4 steps, simple design) run **$2,000-$4,000** including excavation, forming, pouring, and finishing. **Pressure-treated wood stairs** with railings cost **$3,000-$6,000** for a typical front entrance application. **Composite or cedar stairs** with custom railings and integrated lighting run **$5,000-$8,000** or more for premium installations.

Material costs break down roughly as follows: concrete steps cost $40-$60 per linear foot of width, pressure-treated lumber stairs run $150-$250 per step including railings, and composite materials add 40-60% to the wood pricing. Railings are a significant cost component — basic aluminum railings add $100-$150 per linear foot, while

custom wood or composite railings run $200-$400 per linear foot. Most Moncton homes need 3-5 steps from grade to the main entrance, making this a manageable project scope.

In Moncton's Maritime climate, **material selection is critical** for exterior stair longevity. Concrete steps handle freeze-thaw cycles well but need proper drainage underneath to prevent frost heaving. Wood stairs require annual staining or sealing, and pressure-treated lumber should be kiln-dried after treatment (KDAT) to minimize warping and splitting. Composite materials like Trex or TimberTech offer superior weather resistance but cost significantly more upfront. All exterior stairs need **proper footings below the 4-foot frost line** and adequate drainage to prevent ice buildup and frost damage.

Building permits are typically required in Moncton for new exterior stairs, especially if they're over 24 inches high or involve structural connections to the house. The permit fee runs $100-$200 and ensures proper railing height (36-42 inches), step dimensions (7-8 inch rise, 10-11 inch run), and structural adequacy. **Handrails are mandatory** for stairs with more than 3 steps, and the railing must be able to withstand 200 pounds of lateral force per building code.

Timing matters significantly in Moncton — concrete work needs sustained temperatures above 10°C, typically May through October. Wood and composite installations can happen in cooler weather but avoid frozen ground conditions. Spring installation allows a full season of settling before winter, while fall installations should be completed by early October to allow proper curing time.

Professional installation is strongly recommended for exterior stairs due to the structural, drainage, and safety requirements. Improperly built stairs create liability issues, fail prematurely in NB's harsh climate, and may not meet building code requirements. A qualified contractor will handle excavation, proper footings, drainage considerations, code compliance, and permit applications.

Get **3+ quotes from local contractors** as pricing varies significantly based on site conditions, access, and material choices. Add **15-20% contingency** to your budget for unexpected site conditions like poor drainage, rock excavation, or the need to relocate utilities. Most exterior stair projects in Moncton take 2-5 days depending on complexity and weather cooperation.

Need help finding an experienced contractor for your exterior stair project? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals who understand Moncton's building requirements and climate challenges.

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Q3

How much does new siding cost for a home in New Brunswick in 2026?

New siding on a typical New Brunswick home costs $12,000 to $30,000 fully installed in 2026, depending on the material you choose, the size of your home, and the amount of prep work required. That range reflects the full spectrum from economical vinyl siding on a modest bungalow to fibre cement or engineered wood on a larger two-storey with complex trim detailing.

Breaking it down by material: **vinyl siding** is the most affordable option at $6 to $10 per square foot installed, making it the most common choice in NB. A standard 1,500 square foot bungalow with roughly 1,800 square feet of exterior wall surface (accounting for gables) typically runs $11,000 to $18,000 for a full vinyl siding replacement. **Fibre cement siding** (HardiePlank) runs $10 to $16 per square foot installed — the same bungalow would cost $18,000 to $29,000. **Engineered wood siding** (LP SmartSide) falls in between at $8 to $14 per square foot installed. Cedar shingles and shake are at the premium end at $12 to $20 per square foot, typically reserved for accent areas or heritage-style homes.

The price per square foot is only part of the story. **Prep work** adds significant cost on older NB homes, and this is where estimates can vary dramatically between contractors. If your existing siding is in poor condition, you may face removal and disposal costs ($1.50 to $3.00 per sq ft), repairs to the sheathing or housewrap underneath, and additional work around windows and doors where flashing has failed over the years. NB homes built before 1990 sometimes reveal moisture damage behind the old siding once it's removed — rotted sheathing, deteriorated window sills, and failed flashings are common findings. This is why a 15 to 20% contingency budget is smart for a siding project on an older home.

Insulated vinyl siding is worth considering for NB's climate. It adds a layer of rigid foam insulation behind the vinyl panels, improving your wall's thermal resistance noticeably without a full exterior insulation retrofit. The premium over standard vinyl is modest — typically $1 to $2 more per square foot installed — and the energy savings in NB's cold winters can make it worthwhile over the life of the siding.

Labour accounts for 40 to 50% of a siding project's cost in NB, which means material fluctuations have a proportional impact. Material costs in 2026 have been elevated compared to pre-pandemic pricing but have stabilized relative to the peaks of 2022 and 2023. Getting 3+ quotes from local contractors is essential — NB siding prices can vary 20 to 40% between contractors for identical scope. Always confirm that each quote is covering the

same prep work, flashing replacement, and disposal so you're comparing apples to apples.

Timing matters for both scheduling and quality. Siding installation in NB should happen between May and October — vinyl becomes brittle in cold temperatures and is prone to cracking during installation if the ambient temperature drops below 5 degrees Celsius. Adhesives and sealants also need temperatures above 10 degrees to cure properly. Contractors who install siding in NB winters are cutting corners on quality.

For more detailed guidance on choosing the right siding material for your specific home, check out the New Brunswick Construction Network — and New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with experienced local siding contractors for free estimates.

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Q4

What is the best siding material for the Maritime climate in New Brunswick?

For most New Brunswick homes, fibre cement siding (HardiePlank) is the best long-term performer in the Maritime climate — it handles freeze-thaw cycles, resists moisture absorption, won't rot or warp, and holds paint well through NB's humidity swings. That said, vinyl siding remains the dominant choice for good reason, and engineered wood is an excellent middle-ground option. The right answer depends on your budget, your home's location, and how long you plan to stay.

NB's Maritime climate throws a lot at exterior siding. The combination of 100+ freeze-thaw cycles annually, 200+ cm of snow (more in the north), persistent salt air in coastal communities, wind-driven rain along the Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Strait, and summer humidity swings that push moisture levels to 60-70% makes this one of the most demanding siding environments in Canada. Any material that absorbs moisture, contracts and expands significantly with temperature, or corrodes in salt air will fail prematurely.

Fibre cement siding excels in this environment because it is dimensionally stable — it doesn't expand and contract significantly with temperature swings, which means paint adhesion holds up over decades rather than cracking and peeling within a few years. It doesn't rot, doesn't absorb moisture, and is impervious to insects. For coastal NB properties in Shediac, Saint Andrews, or along the Fundy shore, fibre cement is genuinely the superior choice because it won't corrode or degrade from salt air exposure the way some other materials can. The trade-off is cost ($10 to $16/sq ft installed) and the fact that it does require painting every 10 to 15 years — though HardiePlank's factory-applied finish is excellent and holds up well in NB conditions.

Vinyl siding is by far the most popular choice in NB, and with good reason. It's affordable ($6 to $10/sq ft installed), requires essentially no maintenance beyond occasional washing, and never needs painting. Modern insulated vinyl siding with a foam backer adds thermal performance that matters in NB's cold winters. The weakness of vinyl in NB's climate is its behaviour in cold temperatures — it becomes brittle below -10°C and can crack if struck or if it was installed without adequate expansion allowance. Standard vinyl also fades over 20 to 30 years, and colour-matching new panels to weathered old panels is nearly impossible. For budget-conscious NB homeowners, vinyl is a solid, practical choice that performs well when properly installed.

Engineered wood siding (LP SmartSide) is worth serious consideration for NB homes. It's treated with a zinc borate process that resists moisture, fungi, and insects, and it's significantly lighter and easier to work with than fibre cement. LP SmartSide handles NB's humidity swings well and comes factory primed for paint. At $8 to $14/sq ft installed, it sits between vinyl and fibre cement in cost. The product has a strong track record in Maritime conditions and carries a 50-year limited warranty. The one caution is installation — LP SmartSide must be installed with proper clearances from grade, flashing at all horizontal terminations, and sealed cut ends to prevent moisture

infiltration. A skilled installer makes all the difference.

Cedar shingles and shakes are a beautiful choice for NB heritage homes and coastal properties, and they've been used in Maritime Canada for centuries because cedar naturally resists rot and moisture. The challenge is cost ($12 to $20/sq ft installed) and maintenance — cedar requires staining every 5 to 7 years to maintain its protective finish in NB's wet climate. For the right home in the right hands, cedar is exceptional. For a busy homeowner who won't keep up with maintenance cycles, it becomes a liability.

For coastal NB communities specifically, prioritize materials with the highest moisture and salt-air resistance: fibre cement first, engineered wood second, vinyl third. Whichever material you choose, ensure all fasteners are stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized — salt air will rust standard fasteners and stain your siding within a few years.

New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with experienced local siding contractors who know which materials perform best in your specific region of the province.

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Q5

Is vinyl siding or fiber cement siding better for homes in NB?

Both vinyl and fibre cement siding are good choices for NB homes, but fibre cement wins on long-term durability and performance in the Maritime climate, while vinyl wins on upfront cost and zero maintenance. The right choice depends on how long you plan to stay in your home, your budget, and whether you're willing to repaint every decade or two.

Let's put real numbers to the comparison for a typical NB home. A full siding replacement with **vinyl** on a 1,500 square foot bungalow runs approximately $11,000 to $18,000 installed. The same home with **fibre cement** (HardiePlank) runs $18,000 to $29,000 installed. That $7,000 to $11,000 gap upfront is the core trade-off. Over a 30 to 40 year period, however, fibre cement's durability advantage can make the math closer — vinyl may need a

full replacement at 25 to 30 years, while quality fibre cement installations in NB regularly last 40 to 50 years with proper paint maintenance.

In NB's specific climate conditions, fibre cement holds a real performance edge. The province's 100+ freeze-thaw cycles annually are hard on vinyl — the material contracts significantly in cold temperatures and expands in summer heat, and after 15 to 20 years that cycling causes the material to become more brittle and the paint to crack and peel if surface-painted vinyl is used. Standard vinyl doesn't get painted, so fading is the main issue rather than peeling, but colour fade after 20 to 25 years can make older vinyl homes look tired. Fibre cement doesn't have this thermal movement problem to the same degree — it's dimensionally stable, which is why the paint holds up decade after decade.

For **coastal NB properties** — along the Fundy shore, Northumberland Strait, and Gulf of St. Lawrence — fibre cement is the stronger recommendation. Salt air, wind-driven rain, and persistent humidity accelerate the wear cycle on vinyl, and fibre cement's resistance to moisture absorption and salt exposure gives it a clear longevity advantage in these demanding environments.

Vinyl's genuine advantages shouldn't be dismissed. It requires no painting — ever. A properly installed vinyl siding job needs only occasional washing with a hose. For NB homeowners who aren't interested in ongoing maintenance commitments, this is a real quality-of-life benefit. Modern insulated vinyl siding with an EPS foam backer also adds R-value to your wall assembly, which matters in NB's cold winters — and the premium over standard vinyl is modest, typically $1 to $2 more per square foot. Insulated vinyl also dents less easily than hollow-back panels, which is worth noting in NB communities with significant hail or flying debris risk during storms.

Fibre cement's main maintenance requirement is repainting every 10 to 15 years, which costs $3,000 to $8,000 for a full exterior paint job on a typical NB home. Factor that into your long-term cost comparison. HardiePlank's factory-applied Colorplus finish is the premium option and holds up better than field-painted installations — it's worth the premium if your contractor offers it.

Installation quality matters enormously for both materials. Vinyl that's nailed too tight won't expand properly and will buckle in summer heat. Fibre cement that's installed without proper flashing at horizontal terminations will absorb moisture at the cut ends and fail prematurely. In both cases, hire a contractor with demonstrated experience with the specific material — ask to see examples of their work on NB homes.

For in-depth comparisons of exterior materials and their performance in NB conditions, New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with experienced local siding contractors who can assess your specific home and recommend the right product.

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Q6

How much does it cost to replace siding on a two-storey home in Moncton?

Replacing siding on a two-storey home in Moncton typically costs $18,000 to $40,000 fully installed in 2026, depending on the material chosen, the size of the home, and how much prep and repair work is required. Two-storey homes cost more per square foot than bungalows because of the additional scaffolding or staging required, the increased labour time at height, and the larger overall exterior wall area.

A typical two-storey home in Moncton — say 1,400 square feet of living area per floor — has roughly 2,200 to 2,800 square feet of exterior wall surface when you factor in gables, dormers, and elevation variations. Run those numbers through current NB installation pricing and you get: **vinyl siding** at $6 to $10 per square foot lands between $13,200 and $28,000. **Fibre cement** (HardiePlank) at $10 to $16 per square foot runs $22,000 to $44,800. **Engineered wood** (LP SmartSide) at $8 to $14 per square foot sits at $17,600 to $39,200. For most Moncton two-storey homes with vinyl siding, budgeting $20,000 to $28,000 is a realistic mid-range target.

The two-storey premium over a bungalow of the same footprint is real. Scaffolding rental adds $2,000 to $5,000 to the project depending on the height and perimeter. Labour time increases because installers work more carefully at height, staging materials takes longer, and there's more time spent on setup and tear-down. Any contractor quoting Moncton two-storey siding without accounting for staging costs is either doing the work from ladders (a WorkSafeNB concern) or will surprise you with that cost later.

Moncton's housing stock includes a lot of older two-storey homes from the 1960s through 1990s that are now prime candidates for siding replacement. These homes frequently have original wood siding, deteriorated hardboard, or early-generation vinyl that has faded and cracked over 30 to 40 years of Moncton winters. When the old siding comes off, it's common to find moisture damage on the sheathing underneath — particularly around windows, at the base of walls, and at exterior corners where caulking has failed. Budget a **15 to 20% contingency** for a Moncton two-storey, especially on homes built before 1990.

Timing your project well matters in Moncton. The Moncton area typically gets 280 to 300 cm of snow annually, and late fall and early spring bring the wet, cold conditions that are hardest on siding work quality. Aim for a **June through September** installation window for best results — adhesives, sealants, and caulking all cure properly at temperatures above 10 degrees Celsius, and your crew can work efficiently without wrestling with frozen or brittle materials.

When getting quotes from Moncton siding contractors, make sure each quote clearly specifies: removal and disposal of existing siding, inspection and repair of any damaged sheathing or housewrap, replacement of all window and door flashing, and the installation warranty. NB renovation pricing varies 20 to 40% between contractors for identical scope — getting 3+ quotes is not optional, it's how you protect yourself from both overcharging and underscoping.

Note that a straight siding replacement in NB does not require a building permit — it's considered maintenance work. However, if your project involves replacing or modifying windows or doors in the process, those changes may require permits. When in doubt, check with the City of Moncton's building department.

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Q7

Do I need a permit to replace siding on my house in New Brunswick?

In most cases, you do not need a building permit to replace siding on your home in New Brunswick — a straight like-for-like siding replacement is considered maintenance work and falls below the permit threshold. However, there are important exceptions that can change this answer, and getting it wrong either way creates real problems.

A straightforward siding replacement — removing old siding and installing new siding over the same wall structure — is classified as exterior maintenance in NB, similar to repainting or re-roofing with the same material. This type of project doesn't require a building permit in Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, or any of NB's other municipalities, and it doesn't require Rural Service Commission approval in unincorporated areas. You can proceed with your contractor without going through the permit process.

The exceptions matter. **If your siding replacement involves adding exterior insulation** — for example, installing rigid foam board over the existing sheathing before the new siding goes on — that changes the scope because you're modifying the building envelope in a way that affects your wall assembly's thermal and moisture performance. Some municipalities treat this as a renovation requiring permit review. **If your project involves modifying, enlarging, or replacing windows or doors** as part of the siding work, window and door work in load-bearing walls requires a permit. **If you're changing the cladding type substantially** — for example, replacing vinyl siding with a heavier cladding system that the existing structure may not be designed to support — a structural review may be warranted.

For **heritage properties** in Fredericton, Saint John's uptown district, or Saint Andrews, there's an additional layer of consideration. Designated heritage properties in NB may require Heritage Branch approval before exterior changes, even for siding replacement. The restriction is typically on material type and visual character rather than on routine maintenance — but if your home is on the heritage register, check with your municipality before proceeding.

Even when a permit is not required, the work must still comply with the NB Building Code. This means the siding installation must use proper flashing at all terminations, appropriate housewrap or building paper where needed, and fasteners rated for the application. **TSANB jurisdiction** doesn't apply to siding itself, but if your contractor finds electrical service mast or utility connections that need to be temporarily moved during siding work, coordinate with your utility company and ensure any electrical work is handled by a licensed electrician.

One practical note: even though a permit isn't required, document your siding project with before-and-after photos, keep your invoices and warranty documents, and note the material specifications in your home's maintenance records. When you sell your home, buyers and their inspectors appreciate clear records of what was done and when. A dated receipt from a licensed contractor showing material specifications is worth keeping in your home file.

If you're ever uncertain whether your specific project requires a permit, the safest move is a quick call to your local building department. In Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton, building inspection offices are generally responsive to a simple permit question — they'd rather answer it upfront than deal with an unpermitted project later. In rural NB, contact your Rural Service Commission.

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Q8

How long does vinyl siding last in New Brunswick's harsh winters?

Quality vinyl siding installed properly on a New Brunswick home typically lasts 25 to 40 years, though NB's climate is harder on vinyl than many Canadian regions — plan for the lower end of that range in coastal areas or on homes that weren't insulated behind the siding. With proper installation and minimal maintenance, most NB homeowners get 30+ years of solid service from a quality vinyl siding product.

The factors that determine whether your vinyl siding reaches 30 to 40 years or starts failing at 20 largely come down to installation quality, product grade, and your home's specific exposure. **NB's freeze-thaw cycle** — 100+ cycles annually — is the primary enemy of vinyl siding longevity. Each freeze-thaw cycle contracts and expands the vinyl slightly. Properly installed vinyl siding accounts for this thermal movement with nailing that leaves room for the panels to slide rather than being fixed rigidly in place. When vinyl is face-nailed too tightly — a common installation shortcut — the panels can't expand freely in summer heat and can't contract without cracking in winter cold. This causes the characteristic waviness and cracking that marks premature vinyl failure in NB.

Product grade matters significantly. Builder-grade vinyl siding with a nominal thickness of 0.040 inches (40 mil) becomes brittle faster in NB's cold than premium-grade 0.046 or 0.048 inch product. Thicker vinyl holds up better to the impact from hail, wind-blown debris, and the everyday knocks of NB winters. For northern NB communities like Edmundston, Campbellton, and Bathurst where temperatures regularly reach -25 to -30°C, premium-grade vinyl is

worth the modest extra cost.

Colour choice affects longevity too. Dark vinyl colours absorb more solar heat, which causes more pronounced thermal expansion and faster UV degradation. In NB's climate, medium to lighter colours (beige, grey, cream, light blue) outperform dark charcoals and deep greens over the long haul. This isn't about aesthetics — it's about thermal cycling and UV resistance. Most vinyl manufacturers warranty darker colours at shorter intervals than lighter ones, and that reflects real performance data.

Coastal NB exposure accelerates wear on all siding products, including vinyl. Salt air doesn't corrode vinyl itself (unlike metal), but it does deposit salt on the surface that holds moisture and accelerates UV degradation. Coastal homes in Shediac, Saint Andrews, Alma, and along the Fundy shore benefit from annual washing to remove salt deposits. A garden hose and mild detergent once a year is all it takes and adds years to the appearance of the siding.

Insulated vinyl siding — panels with a foam backer — generally lasts longer than hollow-back panels in NB because the foam prevents the rapid temperature swings on the panel surface. The panel stays closer to the ambient temperature rather than heating up dramatically in direct sunlight, reducing the severity of thermal cycling. For NB homes, insulated vinyl is worth the modest premium.

Signs that vinyl siding is approaching end of life include significant fading that washing won't fix, widespread cracking or splitting panels (especially on north-facing walls that get the most freeze-thaw cycling), warping or waviness that has worsened over multiple seasons, and panels pulling away from trim at corners and around windows. When more than 20 to 30% of the panels are showing these signs, a full replacement is more economical than ongoing repairs.

Most quality vinyl siding manufacturers offer warranties of 25 to lifetime limited, but NB's climate pushes product to the edge of these warranty conditions. Keep your installation records and warranty documentation, because manufacturer support varies significantly in practice.

For more detailed guidance on siding materials and their performance across NB's regions, New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with experienced local contractors who know how siding holds up in your specific part of the province.

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Q9

What is the cost of installing James Hardie fiber cement siding in NB?

James Hardie fibre cement siding installed in New Brunswick typically costs $10 to $16 per square foot, meaning a full siding replacement on a typical NB home runs $18,000 to $35,000 depending on home size, profile choice, and prep work required. That range is meaningful, and understanding what drives it up or down will help you budget accurately.

The base material cost for HardiePlank lap siding runs roughly $1.50 to $2.50 per square foot for the panels alone, but installed pricing includes labour, trim pieces, corner boards, window and door casing, priming, and flashing — all of which add up quickly. Hardie Panel (vertical board and batten) and HardieShingle (shingle-style panels) run toward the higher end of that range because they're more labour-intensive to install. Colour-through or factory-primed products also affect price — ColorPlus factory-finished panels cost more upfront but eliminate the need for a field prime coat and offer better warranty coverage.

Labour is the biggest cost variable in NB. Hardie is significantly heavier than vinyl siding, requiring more installers and more time per square foot. Most experienced NB siding crews charge $4 to $7 per square foot in labour for Hardie installation, compared to $2 to $4 for vinyl. Hardie also requires special carbide-tipped blades to cut, adds to crew fatigue, and demands precise nailing — driven fasteners only, no staples, with nail heads properly recessed but not overdriven. An experienced Hardie installer is not the same as an experienced vinyl installer, so ask specifically about a crew's Hardie experience before signing a contract.

What NB Homeowners Need to Know

New Brunswick's climate is genuinely one of the best environments in Canada for fibre cement siding. Our 100+ annual freeze-thaw cycles, wet Maritime summers, and persistent coastal wind-driven rain are exactly the conditions where vinyl siding fails early and where Hardie excels. Fibre cement does not expand and contract as dramatically as vinyl in NB's temperature swings, it resists moisture penetration better than wood, and it does not dent, warp, or fade the way cheaper materials do. Coastal homes in Saint John, Shediac, and along the Fundy shoreline particularly benefit — salt air that corrodes vinyl fasteners and bleaches pigments year after year is much less damaging to Hardie when properly installed with stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized fasteners.

Proper installation in NB requires attention to moisture management beneath the cladding. A quality rainscreen gap — even a simple 3/8-inch drainage plane using furring strips or a drainable house wrap — allows any water that

gets behind the siding to drain rather than sit against the sheathing. This is especially important on the south and west faces of NB homes that catch the prevailing weather. Hardie does not rot, but your sheathing, housewrap, and framing will if moisture accumulates unchecked behind any cladding system.

For budgeting purposes, plan for a **15-20% contingency** on any siding project in NB, particularly on homes built before 1985. Removing old siding often reveals deteriorated sheathing, missing or failed housewrap, and moisture damage around window and door openings that needs to be corrected before new siding goes on. Discovering $3,000 to $8,000 in sheathing repairs is common enough on older NB homes that you should budget for it rather than be surprised.

Get at least three quotes from contractors who can show you recently completed Hardie projects in your area. Ask for references you can visit, check that the crew holds proper WorkSafeNB coverage, and confirm permits — most NB municipalities require a permit for full siding replacement. The investment in fibre cement siding typically adds meaningful resale value to an NB home and carries a 30-year warranty from James Hardie when installed to their specifications, making it one of the better long-term siding investments available in this province.

Q10

Should I add house wrap or insulation board under new siding in New Brunswick?

Yes — absolutely. In New Brunswick's climate, proper housewrap and adding rigid foam insulation board under new siding is one of the highest-return upgrades you can make to an older home, and skipping either one is a decision you will almost certainly regret within a few years. The short version: housewrap is mandatory, and insulation board is strongly worth the additional investment.

Housewrap — products like Tyvek HomWrap, Typar, or their equivalents — serves as the primary weather-resistive barrier (WRB) between your siding and your sheathing. It blocks liquid water that penetrates behind your siding while still allowing water vapour to escape outward. Without it, water infiltrating around fasteners, trim joints, window edges, and any siding seam finds its way to your OSB or plywood sheathing, where it sits, saturates the wood, and eventually causes rot, mould, and structural damage. In NB's wet Maritime climate with persistent wind-driven rain off the Bay of Fundy and along the Northumberland Strait coast, this isn't a theoretical risk — it's a near-certainty over 15 to 20 years without a proper WRB. Many NB homes built in the 1970s and 1980s have no housewrap at all, and siding replacement projects routinely uncover significant sheathing decay underneath.

When installing new siding, always use a quality housewrap applied to clean, smooth sheathing with lapped seams and properly taped joints around all penetrations. The wrap goes over the sheathing, and all window and door openings need carefully integrated flashing — either peel-and-stick membrane or proper sill pan flashing — before the windows are reinstalled or new casings applied. This is where most water intrusion problems originate on NB homes: improperly flashed window rough openings, not failures of the siding material itself.

The Case for Rigid Foam Insulation Board

Adding a layer of rigid foam insulation board — typically 1-inch to 2-inch extruded polystyrene (XPS) or polyisocyanurate — under new siding accomplishes two things that are difficult to achieve any other way. First, it adds meaningful R-value to your wall assembly without any interior disruption. A 1-inch XPS board adds R-5; 2-inch adds R-10. For NB homes with 2x4 walls stuffed with original fibreglass batts (often settled and degraded), this exterior continuous insulation layer dramatically reduces thermal bridging through your studs and meaningfully improves your wall's overall performance. Second, it creates a slight drainage plane that helps any water behind the siding drain downward rather than pooling against the sheathing.

The added cost of 1-inch rigid foam runs approximately **$1.50 to $2.50 per square foot** for materials, plus some additional labour for fastener length adjustments and window extension jambs (which need to be extended to accommodate the added wall thickness). On a typical NB home, that might add $2,500 to $5,000 to a full siding project. Given that you're already paying $15,000 to $30,000 for siding replacement, this incremental investment

can meaningfully improve your home's thermal performance for decades at a fraction of what interior wall insulation upgrades would cost.

If your siding project is planned for exterior vinyl over existing vinyl or any scenario where you're not removing the old siding entirely, the options narrow — but even a drainable housewrap with a built-in drainage mat is far better than bare siding against sheathing. For NB homes near the coast or in the Saint John River valley where wind-driven rain loads are significant, this is not optional if you want your exterior envelope to perform well.

Confirm with your contractor that the housewrap installation includes proper window and door flashing integration — this is the single most important detail in any NB siding project, and it separates a proper installation from one that will leak within a few years. Ask to see the flashing details before the new siding goes on. Once the siding is installed, you cannot fix what's hidden behind it without starting over.

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Q11

What are the most popular siding colors for homes in New Brunswick?

New Brunswick homeowners consistently gravitate toward muted, nature-inspired tones that complement the province's coastal and forested landscape — soft greys, warm creams, deep charcoals, forest greens, and traditional Maritime whites dominate NB neighbourhoods, with bold navy and dark slate becoming increasingly popular for modern and refreshed heritage homes. Colour choice also has practical implications in NB's climate that are worth considering alongside aesthetics.

The most popular siding colours across NB right now lean toward the greyed-out end of the spectrum. Warm grey tones — sometimes called 'greige' (grey-beige) — are extremely common on newer builds and recent renovations from Moncton to Fredericton to Saint John. They photograph well, age gracefully, complement virtually every trim colour, and don't read as trendy in 10 years. Soft white and off-white (think warm cream rather than stark bright white) remain perennially popular in NB, particularly in older neighbourhoods and heritage-style homes — they reflect NB's strong New England architectural heritage and look timeless against dark shutters and natural stone or

brick accents.

Deep charcoal and near-black are having a significant moment in NB, particularly on craftsman and transitional-style homes where the darker body contrasts with light trim for strong curb appeal. Forest green is experiencing a revival — this is a colour with deep roots in Maritime architecture that fell out of fashion but is showing up consistently on new homes and renovation projects, particularly in more rural NB communities and on properties with significant natural setting. Navy blue, particularly in a dusty or slightly desaturated tone, has also become popular in recent years as homeowners look for something distinctive without going to an extreme.

The practical side of colour choice in NB comes down to a few real considerations. **Darker colours absorb more heat**, which matters on south- and west-facing walls where NB summer sun can be intense — this can accelerate fading on lower-quality vinyl siding if you haven't invested in a UV-stabilized product. Quality vinyl siding products from manufacturers like CertainTeed, Alside, and Ply Gem now offer fade-resistant pigments under long warranties, but even the best vinyl will fade faster in a deep colour than a light one over 20 or 30 years. Fibre cement siding like HardiePlank holds colour considerably better in dark shades, particularly the factory-applied ColorPlus finishes.

Trim colour matters as much as body colour in NB's housing stock. The most enduring combinations are a body colour in the medium-to-deep range with crisp white or warm cream trim — this reads clearly from the street, highlights architectural details, and photographs well for resale. Matching body and trim in the same colour (or very close tones) is a contemporary look that works well on modern homes but can flatten the appearance of traditional NB architecture with detailed trim work, gable accents, and front porches.

For coastal homes in Saint John, Shediac, Alma, and Campbellton, saltwater and persistent wind exposure accelerates fading of exterior finishes regardless of siding type. Factory-finished fibre cement or premium vinyl with strong fade warranties are worth the investment. On salt-exposed properties, lighter and medium tones tend to maintain their appearance longer before fading becomes noticeable compared to deep colours.

If you're replacing siding and undecided on colour, most siding manufacturers offer physical sample boards you can hold up to your home in different light — morning sun, cloudy afternoon, and under cloudy NB skies that are common spring and fall — before committing. A colour that looks perfect in the showroom can read differently against your specific brick, foundation, roof colour, and surrounding landscape. Take your time with this decision; you'll be living with it for 20 to 30 years.

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Q12

How much does it cost to repair damaged siding on a New Brunswick home?

Siding repair costs in New Brunswick range from $300 to $800 for a small patch repair on vinyl siding up to $3,000 to $8,000 for larger sections of damaged fibre cement or wood siding, depending on the material, extent of damage, and whether underlying sheathing or moisture damage was discovered during the repair. The final number often hinges on what's hiding behind the damage.

For vinyl siding repairs — the most common siding type across NB — a single damaged panel or a small section of 5 to 10 linear feet can typically be repaired for $300 to $800 by an experienced siding contractor. The challenge with vinyl patch repairs is finding matching material. Vinyl siding profiles and colours change frequently, and a home sided 10 or 15 years ago often has a discontinued colour or profile that can't be matched exactly. Some contractors carry sample stock or can source close matches, but a perfect invisible repair is often not possible on older vinyl. In those cases, many NB homeowners choose to repair the area as closely as possible, use the repair as an opportunity to replace a full wall section, or plan for a full siding replacement within a few years.

Fibre cement and wood siding repairs run higher in cost — $1,000 to $3,000 for moderate damage to one wall section — primarily because the material costs more, cutting and fitting is more labour-intensive, and factory-finished products require field priming and painting to match. Cedar shingle repairs are particularly labour-intensive since individual shingles need to be hand-split or cut to weave into existing coursing cleanly.

What Drives Repair Costs Up

The most significant variable in any NB siding repair is what's underneath. Damage from impact (hail, falling branches, or the aftermath of an ice storm) is usually confined to the siding layer itself. But damage from long-term moisture infiltration — which is common in NB given our wet climate, freeze-thaw cycle intensity, and the number of homes with aging caulking and failed flashing — often involves deteriorated housewrap, rotted OSB sheathing, and in serious cases, compromised framing members. When a siding contractor opens up a damaged area and finds saturated sheathing or signs of mould behind the panels, repair costs can jump from $500 to $5,000 or more as the underlying issue needs to be corrected before any new siding goes on.

This is particularly relevant on NB homes built before 1990 that may have no housewrap, original fibreglass batt insulation that has settled away from the sheathing, and decades of imperfect caulking around windows and penetrations. It's not uncommon for what looks like a simple $600 siding repair to reveal a $3,000 to $5,000

sheathing and moisture remediation project once the old material is removed. This is why experienced contractors always open the affected area fully before quoting a final price — any quote without an inspection of the substrate is an estimate at best.

Spring is the season when NB siding damage from winter ice, wind, and ice damming most often becomes visible. If you're noticing warped panels, cracked sections, or gaps opening at seams after a hard NB winter, address them before summer's humidity and warm temperatures allow moisture to work further into the wall assembly.

Always request a WorkSafeNB clearance letter from any contractor performing work on your home, even for a small repair. Ask specifically whether they will inspect the substrate before finalizing the repair scope. A contractor who quotes a firm price without opening the damaged area first is either very experienced with the specific failure mode or making optimistic assumptions — clarify which one before signing.

For minor repairs, some materials, and situations where matching is possible, this is one area where a competent DIYer can tackle the job — replacing a few cracked vinyl panels with matching material is well within reach for someone comfortable with basic hand tools and a zip tool (siding unlock tool). But the moment any substrate work is involved or the damage extends near windows or at the foundation sill, professional assessment is the right call.

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Q13

Can I install siding over existing siding on my NB home?

Technically yes, in many cases — but in New Brunswick's climate, installing new siding over existing siding without removing the old material is a decision that requires careful evaluation, and it often creates more problems than it solves. Whether it makes sense depends heavily on what's underneath, what siding type you're adding, and what condition the existing envelope is in.

The most common scenario in NB is installing new vinyl siding over existing aluminum siding or over original 1970s vinyl. From a structural standpoint this is possible — vinyl is lightweight and existing framing can handle the added layers if the substrate is sound. The appeal is obvious: you skip a full tear-off, avoid the cost of sheathing repairs, and reduce the mess and labour of a full strip. In practice, though, the approach trades short-term savings for long-term risk.

The fundamental problem with siding-over-siding in NB is that you cannot see what's hiding behind the existing material. NB homes of that era commonly have moisture damage, failed or absent housewrap, and settled or deteriorated insulation behind the siding — issues that are invisible until the old cladding is removed. Installing new vinyl over a compromised substrate means paying for new siding while leaving the underlying problem in place, still wicking moisture, still allowing air infiltration, and still degrading your sheathing and framing. You've added a new exterior layer while the real damage continues underneath.

When It Can Work

There are legitimate scenarios where installing over existing siding makes sense. If a professional inspection (probing with an awl in several locations, checking around window and door openings) confirms the existing sheathing is dry and sound, the current siding is relatively flat with no major warping or gaps, and the window and door trim depths allow for the added wall thickness, then a quality vinyl re-side over existing material can be a reasonable choice. The contractor must still add housewrap — or ideally a drainable housewrap — over the existing siding before the new material goes on. Simply nailing new vinyl over old vinyl without any weather-resistive barrier layer is a cut-corner approach that will cost you later.

Installing fibre cement siding over existing vinyl is generally **not recommended**. Hardie is significantly heavier than vinyl, requires solid fastening into studs (not just through old vinyl and sheathing), and the added weight can stress the wall assembly in ways that cause problems over NB's freeze-thaw cycles. Most fibre cement manufacturers also specify tear-off installation to ensure proper nailing and moisture management beneath their product.

Another practical consideration: adding a second siding layer increases wall thickness, which affects window and door trim depth. If your existing windows are already relatively flush with the siding profile, adding another layer will

leave trim pieces undersized and create water infiltration points right at the most vulnerable part of the wall — around windows. Extending window jambs and trim is an added cost that needs to be factored into any over-siding estimate.

For NB homes built before 1985 in particular, a complete tear-off is the responsible approach. The money saved by skipping tear-off ($1,000 to $3,000 in most cases) is rarely worth the risk of missing moisture damage that will surface again in 5 to 10 years — at which point the entire new siding layer will need to come off anyway, plus you'll have new sheathing repairs on top of the original problem.

Get a contractor to probe and inspect the existing wall assembly before making this decision. The right answer for your specific home depends on what's actually behind that old siding, and that's not something that can be determined from the outside alone.

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Q14

What is the best exterior cladding for a coastal home in New Brunswick?

For coastal New Brunswick homes facing the Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait, or Gulf of St. Lawrence, fibre cement siding — specifically James Hardie or equivalent fibre cement products — is the best all-around exterior cladding choice, followed closely by quality vinyl for budget-conscious projects. The combination of salt air, persistent wind-driven rain, fog, and NB's severe freeze-thaw cycle makes coastal cladding selection one of the most consequential decisions you'll make for your home's long-term performance.

Fibre cement earns the top recommendation for coastal NB for several specific reasons. It does not corrode, does not absorb salt, does not swell or warp from repeated moisture exposure, and — critically — it does not expand and contract as dramatically as vinyl in the temperature swings NB coastal properties experience. The salt air that accelerates corrosion on metal fasteners, bleaches vinyl pigments, and degrades wood fibres over years has minimal effect on properly installed fibre cement. HardiePlank installed with stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanised fasteners, properly primed and painted with an elastomeric exterior paint, delivers 20 to 30 years of low-

maintenance performance in even the most exposed coastal NB locations. Budget $10 to $16 per square foot installed, and a full re-side on a typical coastal home runs $20,000 to $35,000 depending on size and complexity.

For homes in particularly exposed locations — elevated sites on the Fundy Shore between Saint John and Sussex, waterfront properties in Shediac or Bouctouche, or hilltop homes in Campbellton or Dalhousie — the wind loads are exceptional. In these cases, fibre cement's weight (it's heavy) actually works in its favour: it's less likely to have individual panels blown off or lifted by wind than vinyl, which can fail at fastener points in sustained coastal gales.

Vinyl on the Coast: Possible With Precautions

Premium vinyl siding is a reasonable choice for coastal NB homes when budget is the primary constraint, with some important caveats. Not all vinyl is created equal — you want a product rated for coastal exposure with strong UV fade resistance and a minimum 0.044-inch thickness. Thinner vinyl is more susceptible to impact from wind-borne debris, more prone to warping in south-facing sun exposure combined with salt-humid air, and fades significantly faster than premium-grade product. Expect to pay $6 to $10 per square foot installed for quality vinyl, with a full home in the $12,000 to $20,000 range.

The fastening system matters enormously for coastal vinyl. All fasteners must be stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanised — standard nails or screws will rust through within 5 to 10 years in coastal NB salt air, leaving stain streaks and eventually failing connections. This is non-negotiable for any coastal installation regardless of siding material.

Cedar shingles are the historically authentic choice for Maritime coastal architecture and perform reasonably well with proper installation and regular maintenance — but they require painting or staining every 5 to 7 years in coastal NB conditions, and the labour and material cost of that ongoing maintenance program adds up significantly over time. If the aesthetic of cedar shingles is important to you for a heritage coastal property in places like Saint Andrews or Grand Manan, budget for the maintenance program.

Critical Installation Details for Coastal NB

Regardless of which cladding you choose, the installation details matter more on a coastal home than anywhere else. A proper drainable rainscreen gap between the cladding and the housewrap is essential — coastal NB homes see wind-driven rain pressures that push water behind siding in ways inland properties don't experience. Even a 3/8-inch gap using furring strips over the housewrap gives driven moisture a drainage path rather than letting it accumulate against your sheathing.

All caulking must be marine-grade or marine-formulated exterior sealant, not standard paintable caulk. Around windows, doors, electrical penetrations, and any siding termination, this caulking is your last line of defence against salt-laden moisture. It needs to be inspected and refreshed every 5 to 7 years even on the most durable cladding

systems.

Get a contractor with demonstrated coastal installation experience for your NB home — the installation details that separate a performing exterior from one that fails early are learned through coastal project experience, not learned from the product spec sheet.

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Q15

How much does cedar shingle siding cost to install in New Brunswick?

Cedar shingle siding installation in New Brunswick typically costs $12 to $20 per square foot installed, putting a full siding replacement on a typical NB home in the $22,000 to $45,000 range depending on home size, shingle grade, and the complexity of the profile and trim work. It's the most labour-intensive common siding choice in NB, but for the right home and homeowner, it delivers an authentic Maritime aesthetic that no other material replicates.

The material cost for Western Red Cedar shingles runs $2.50 to $5.00 per square foot depending on grade. No. 1 Blue Label shingles are the standard specification for sidewall applications — clear, straight-grained, and free of defects that would cause early splitting or cupping. Lower grades exist and cost less, but on NB's coastal and humid-climate homes where the shingles face genuine weathering stress, downgrading on material quality to save $1 per square foot is a poor investment. Labour for cedar shingle installation is genuinely skilled work — each row must be aligned and spaced consistently, shingles split or cut to fit around windows, doors, and corners, and the coursing adjusted to account for wall height. Experienced siding crews in NB charge more per square foot for cedar than for vinyl or even Hardie, because the hand-placement nature of the work is significantly more time-consuming.

Pre-primed or factory-finished cedar shingles cost more than raw cedar but reduce the time between installation and painting, and many finishing contractors recommend pre-priming all six faces of each shingle before installation in NB's climate to maximize moisture resistance. This adds to cost but meaningfully extends the interval between

required maintenance cycles.

NB Climate Considerations for Cedar Siding

Cedar shingles are a traditional Maritime choice — they've been used on NB homes for over a century and perform well here when properly maintained. The key word is maintained. In NB's climate with 100+ freeze-thaw cycles annually, persistent coastal moisture, and summer humidity swings, cedar shingles left unpainted or unstained will begin to grey, check (develop small surface cracks), and split at the bottoms within 5 to 8 years. Once moisture infiltrates through those checks and the shingle faces, the cedar fibre degrades rapidly from the inside, and shingles that looked acceptable for years can fail quickly.

A realistic maintenance schedule for cedar shingle siding in NB is **painting or staining every 5 to 7 years** for inland properties and every **4 to 5 years** for coastal homes. Given that painting cedar shingles on a full house exterior in NB costs $4,000 to $10,000 for professional application (the irregular surface takes significantly more time than flat vinyl or Hardie), this ongoing cost needs to be factored into your total cost of ownership comparison with lower-maintenance alternatives.

For heritage homes in Fredericton, Saint John, Sussex, and older NB communities where cedar shingles are architecturally authentic and contribute to heritage character, the maintenance investment makes sense and may actually be required for designated heritage properties. For a contemporary NB home where you're choosing cedar purely for aesthetics, the honest comparison against fibre cement — which can be finished to look like cedar shingles at lower long-term cost — is worth making before you commit.

Spring is the optimal installation time for cedar shingles in NB — the shingles need to acclimate to ambient humidity conditions before installation, and painting or staining is best done in May through September when temperatures are consistent and humidity is manageable. Installing cedar in late fall and leaving it unfinished through an NB winter accelerates the greying and checking process significantly.

If you're drawn to cedar for a heritage or coastal NB home, a contractor with specific cedar shingle installation experience is essential. Ask to see completed cedar shingle projects in NB conditions specifically — the installation technique and moisture management details that determine long-term performance are not the same as vinyl or Hardie installation, and the quality gap between an experienced cedar installer and a general siding crew is significant.

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Q16

Is engineered wood siding a good choice for New Brunswick homes?

Engineered wood siding — primarily LP SmartSide and similar products — is a solid choice for New Brunswick homes when properly installed, sitting between vinyl and fibre cement in cost, performance, and maintenance requirements. Installed costs run $8 to $14 per square foot in NB, making it a meaningful step up from vinyl without reaching fibre cement pricing, and it offers genuinely good performance in NB's demanding climate when the installation is done right.

LP SmartSide is the dominant engineered wood product in NB and across Canada. It's constructed from wood strands bonded with exterior-grade adhesives and overlaid with a factory-applied primed and textured surface. The engineering matters: the strand-based construction is more dimensionally stable than solid wood or cedar, resisting the warping, cupping, and checking that make untreated natural wood a poor performer in NB's humidity swings and freeze-thaw cycles. LP SmartSide also uses borate-based treatment throughout the panel to resist fungal decay and insects, which is relevant in NB's wet spring and summer conditions where untreated wood products are vulnerable to moisture-driven decay.

From a practical standpoint, engineered wood looks more like natural wood than vinyl or Hardie — the texture and profile options more closely replicate wood lap siding, wood shakes, and board-and-batten than most fibre cement products, particularly from a distance. For NB homeowners who love the look of wood siding but want better durability and less maintenance than real cedar, LP SmartSide hits a genuine sweet spot.

Performance in NB Conditions

Engineered wood is more moisture-sensitive than fibre cement and requires more attention to installation details, particularly in NB's climate. The most important rule: **all cut ends must be field-primed with end-cut primer before installation.** Every time LP SmartSide is cut — at corners, around windows, to length — the factory coating is interrupted, and those exposed end-grain sections are the most vulnerable points in the assembly. NB contractors with engineered wood experience know this well; contractors who don't prioritise it create moisture entry points that can cause swelling, delamination, and paint failure starting at those edges.

Joints, trim intersections, and penetrations must be properly caulked with quality exterior caulk and maintained on a regular cycle. In NB's coastal zones and in areas with significant wind-driven rain, this maintenance cycle needs to be taken seriously — budgeting for a caulking inspection and touch-up every 5 to 8 years is part of the honest cost picture for engineered wood siding.

Painting or repainting is required more frequently with engineered wood than with vinyl (which is colour-through) or factory-finished fibre cement. LP SmartSide typically needs repainting every 8 to 12 years in moderate NB

conditions, or 6 to 10 years on south and west-facing walls with significant sun and weather exposure. That's a better maintenance interval than natural cedar but a real ongoing cost compared to premium vinyl or ColorPlus Hardie, which can go 15 to 20 years without repainting.

For energy performance, engineered wood is roughly equivalent to fibre cement as a cladding layer — neither provides significant R-value on its own, and both benefit from the addition of continuous rigid foam insulation under the siding during installation. If you're replacing siding on an older NB home with 2x4 walls, this is an excellent opportunity to add 1 to 2 inches of XPS foam board to meaningfully improve your wall's thermal performance regardless of which cladding product you choose.

Engineered wood is a legitimate, good-performing choice for NB homes — it is NOT the problematic hardboard siding products (Masonite, Louisiana-Pacific's older hardboard) that failed widely in the 1980s and 1990s due to moisture issues. Those products are entirely different from modern LP SmartSide. If you're evaluating engineered wood, confirm specifically that you're looking at current LP SmartSide or equivalent strand-based products, not older hardboard or particleboard-based siding. For more detailed painting and finishing guidance for engineered wood siding, New Brunswick Painting at newbrunswickpainting.com covers exterior painting in depth.
