

CHECK YOUR EXTERIOR WOOD FOR PAINT OR STAIN

Aluminum and vinyl products do not need much maintenance, however most wood products require regular painting or staining.

WHAT ? Check the exterior woodwork on your house for the condition of the paint or stain.

WHEN ? Summertime

WHY ? Wood products deteriorate quickly if they are not protected by paint or stain. Moisture penetration can cause rot. Surface deterioration can result from exposure to ultraviolet light.


HOW ? Walk around the entire outside of your house looking for paint failures such as bare spots, cracking, peeling and blistering.

If the paint is failing in a reasonably uniform pattern, or in areas exposed to more weathering, then the paint is simply wearing out.

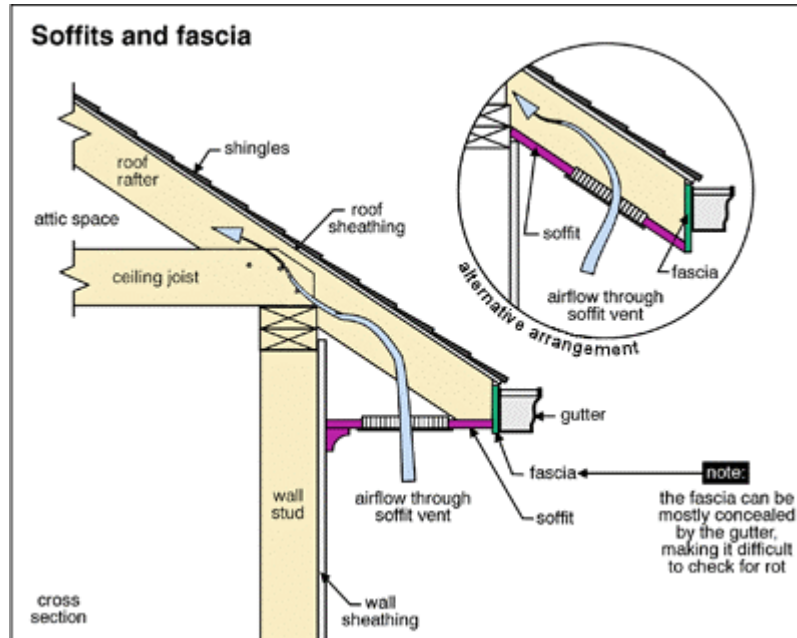
If the paint is failing in localized areas, further inspection is required. Blistering paint, for example, usually indicates moisture in the wood.

Check carefully wherever the end grain of wood is exposed. Paint is critical in these areas to prevent moisture penetration.

Look behind bushes, shrubs and ivy. These areas stay wet for longer periods of time. This causes the paint to deteriorate more quickly.

TIPS  Binoculars are handy for looking at eaves and other areas that you can't get close to.

[\[Larger Image \]](#)



- ✓ Check eaves for damage caused by birds, animals and insects.
- ✓ Check the outdoor caulking while you're inspecting the paint or stain. Silicone caulking is good for outdoor use, but it is not paintable. Silicone latex caulking is not quite as flexible and suffers slightly more shrinkage, but it is paintable.