

RESIDENTIAL EXTERIOR MATERIALS

Type of Material	Cost	Advantages	Disadvantages
Solid wood siding — cut from solid wood, siding planks can be rectangular, tapered or cut with a special profile by the mill.	\$\$\$	Traditional appearance; accepts stain or paint; versatile; strong; attractive.	Susceptible to rotting, splitting, mold, mildew & insect damage; expensive; high maintenance.
Vinyl siding — made of polyvinyl chloride and is manufactured with a wood-grain look.	\$	Inexpensive; many styles & colors; only requires periodic cleaning; durable & dent-resistant; won't rot or flake.	Color may fade over time, especially darker or intense hues; locked into initial color choice.
Aluminum siding — made in long panels with baked-on enamel finish.	\$	No painting or maintenance required; doesn't rust; fireproof; closely resembles wood siding; good heat insulator; water-proof.	Higher insurance cost; can be dented or scratched & is subject to weather damage; difficult to repair or replace (depending on installation); locked into initial color choice.
Steel siding — made of steel panels with baked-on finish.	\$\$	Low maintenance; long lifespan; painting not required; passable imitation of wood siding; fireproof.	Can dent, scratch & rust; locked into initial color choice; can be difficult to repair or replace.
Brick — may be solid traditional brick, brick veneer, or mortarless cement brick.	\$\$-\$\$\$	Classic, traditional look; high protection from moisture; long lifespan; no painting required.	Very expensive, although mortarless cement brick and brick veneer make it more affordable; repairs to bricks & mortar require a professional; labor-intensive installation.
Stucco — similar to interior plaster, it is composed of sand, water & cement plastered to a wire mesh and may come with an acrylic finish.	\$\$-\$\$\$	Classic look; may not require painting if stucco tinted to color homeowner chooses; waterproof; weatherproof; Do-It-Yourself repairs possible.	Labor-intensive installation; prone to cracking that requires immediate caulking; expensive; permeable to water vapor, therefore lets moisture escape from walls.
Concrete Masonry Units - made from concrete and formed into 8" and 4" brick sizes with a variety of face textures and colors.	\$\$\$	Stylish; fits with any style home; long lifespan; maintenance-free; color can be changed with stain; non-combustible; tornado protection; insulation from outside noises, lower insurance premiums, energy efficient	Product newer to this area, some masons may not be familiar with installation. Expensive.
Stone - may be real or manufactured	\$\$\$	Classic traditional look. Extremely durable; long life-span; low maintenance; increases value of home.	Natural stone is more expensive than manufactured stone and costs more to install.

\$ = Low Cost \$\$ = Moderate Cost \$\$\$ = High Cost