

USES

Bark Siding can be used in different ways. Typically it is used as full siding on the building or as an accent on various areas such as dormers or gables. This gives the building a durable, tough, and visually



appealing exterior cladding, and it also gives the building a unique “mountain” appearance. Also, bark siding is used

inside the home as a type of paneling. Some walls are covered in bark for this unique indoor look.

SPECIFICATIONS

Appearance

Only suitable bark becomes a final shingle. Bark must have pronounced ridges, be free of dirt, and contain no visual defects. Bark pieces that are flaky, dirty, marred, or have flat ridges are rejected. Fauna that grows naturally on the bark is desirable and provides an even more natural appearance.

Thickness

Bark thickness ranges between $1/2'' - 1 1/4''$; bark outside this range is rejected. Our bark shingles are solid and sturdy.

Dimensions

Shingles are offered in two sizes: 18" and 24". The width of the shingles varies randomly between 4" - 18". The shingles can be recut to suit further building needs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How durable is poplar bark siding?

Poplar bark siding is extremely rugged and durable. Seventy-five years old houses exist that still have the original bark siding intact showing no significant signs of deterioration. Also, consider this fact: bark is a non-living, protective covering for trees (analogous to the human fingernail); its weather surface lasts the entire lifetime of the tree.

Is bark siding free of insects?

Yes. Our bark is insect-free because the kiln drying process assures this fact. Insects and their eggs are killed when the wood is heated above 130 degrees Fahrenheit, especially at high humidity. Also, bark does not attract carpenter bees or termites.

How is it installed?

Generally, bark siding is applied over house-wrap and roofing underlayer. Consult your local contractor for specifics.

Does poplar bark need a sealant applied?

No. Bark siding needs no sealants. Bark is naturally weather resistant and repels the extreme elements.

How long has bark siding been around?

Starting with the North American Indians, bark siding has been in use for at least 500 or more years. Modern use of bark has been utilized since the mid 1800s

Does bark cladding have any chemicals applied that may leech into the ground?

No. Common to the bark siding industry, no chemicals, preservatives, or borax are added or needed for all natural bark cladding. Therefore, no additives are present to seep into the ground.




BY PARTON LUMBER

251 Parton Rd. • Rutherfordton NC

1-800-624-1501

ph:828-287-4257 • fax: 828-287-9423

info@partonbarksiding.com

www.partonbarksiding.com

Located in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, **Parton Lumber Company** has achieved constant growth since its founding in 1949. Our company is constantly looking for ways to maximize the yield of resources so that waste is to a minimum. And now with poplar bark, another eco-friendly commodity can be made: poplar bark siding for homes and buildings. Seizing upon this traditional rural and mountain home cladding, Parton Lumber now manufactures poplar bark siding with the same knowledge and care that goes into its other fine forest products. With Parton Lumber you can rest assured that impact upon the environment will remain low while quality wood commodities remain superb.

HISTORY

According to historical records, the first people to live in bark dwellings were the North American Indians. English explorers and settlers during the 1600s encountered the Waxhaw Indians located in what is now Union and Lancaster counties of North and South Carolina respectively. To the settler's amazement, the Indians dwelled in bark huts. Replicas of these huts can be seen at the Museum of the Waxhaws located in Waxhaw, North Carolina.



The original tree of choice for bark siding was the chestnut tree. This very abundant tree once comprised 25% of the natural forest in the eastern United States. But at the beginning of the twentieth century, an imported overseas

fungus found its way underneath the bark layer of chestnut trees and caused blight in the species. With the decline of the chestnut tree, so went the decline of chestnut bark siding.



But later in the twentieth century it became apparent that another tree species could be harvested for siding purposes: the abundant yellow tulip poplar. Found throughout the eastern United States, the yellow poplar has the same (and some would say better) cladding qualities as the chestnut tree. Thus with the switch to yellow tulip poplar, bark siding has made a comeback and is now being featured on homes and buildings throughout North America.

MANUFACTURING

Season

Poplar bark can only be peeled during the mid-spring to mid-summer months. During this time the bark releases easily.

Logging

Parton Lumber has a unique advantage in acquiring bark- we contract with our loggers for access to poplar groves. This insures we have a steady seasonal supply of prime and unmarred bark.

Location

Logs are best peeled where the tree is felled. Moving the log before peeling is unwise because the log surface becomes scarred and dirty, and it produces undesirable bark.



Peeling

Bark is peeled with a chainsaw and simple pries. Shallow scoring lines are made in the log, and then pry tools peel the bark.



Flattening

Sheets are first graded for durability, imperfections, and appearance; defects are cut out, and some sheets are rejected. Curved sheets of fresh bark are then stacked in layers, and pressure is applied to flatten the sheets.

Drying

Stacks of flattened bark are kiln dried and brought down to very low moisture content. This insures the bark is dry and that all insects and fungi are eliminated.

Cutting

Once the sheets are dried, they are ready for cutting. Further defects are isolated and removed during the process of cutting and squaring the shingles to proper size.

Stacking

After bark shingles are inspected, cut, and squared, they are neatly stacked in bundles and are ready for delivery.

