

# (re)source

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## rain screen siding

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Photo by David Brumgard

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A Whole Systems Approach means engineering a home that will last over 100 years without repair. To build long lasting and healthy homes, we have to stop even the smallest amounts of moisture from doing a lot of damage. With our Whole Systems Approach, the Rain Screen Siding System is the last best defense against moisture.

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## The Rain Screen Siding System

What happens when very small amounts of water get trapped behind a home's siding? Well over time, moisture causes tremendous damage by changing back and forth between vapor and liquid, moving from one area to another, causing rot, and eventually destroying the home's exterior.

To prevent moisture damage, we wrap the home with a high-density polyethylene material that is water resistant and vapor permeable so that moisture can't be trapped on either side of the wall. We install vertical strips of wood between the wrap and siding to create an open space that acts as a drainage plane for any condensation that does occur.

With a rain screen siding system, any condensation that occurs behind the siding runs down the wrap to a piece of flashing that lets it escape from behind the siding. Because the wooden strips create an air space, drafts of outside air can enter behind the siding and dry any additional condensation while pushing hot humid air out.

