

## Underlayment For Shakes

by Henry Spies

**Q.** What underlayment should I use under cedar shakes?

**A.** A continuous underlayment is not normally used under shakes. Instead, 18-inch-wide strips of No. 15 or No. 30 felt are interwoven with the shakes. The bottom edge of the felt strips should start twice the exposure width above the shake butts (see illustration). For example, with 24-inch shakes having a 10-inch exposure, the "interlayment" should begin 20 inches above the butts. The felt interlayment should only be nailed to the sheathing along the top edge.

At the eaves, use a 36-inch-wide No. 30 felt eaves flashing or an ice membrane.

### Matching Mitered Siding

**Q.** I am remodeling in a development in which the houses all have mitered outside corners on beveled siding. How can I match this detail without inviting failure?

**A.** In the interests of keeping the original appearance, I would wrap an 18-inch strip of roofing felt around the corner so that any leakage through the joint would not reach the sheathing or corner post. The mitered ends of the siding should be sealed with paint as they are applied, and the finished joint caulked.

### Sub-Sidewalk Seepage

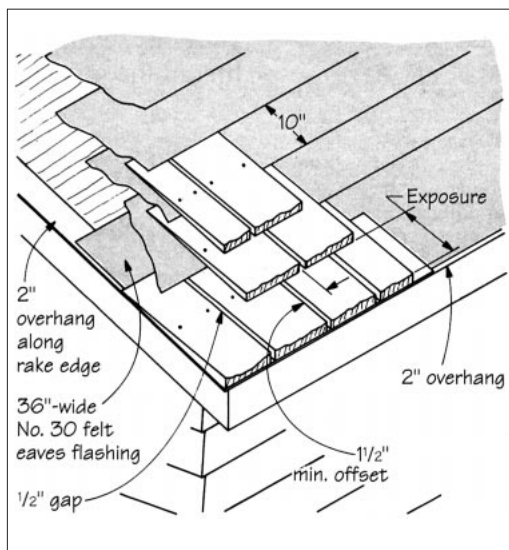
**Q.** I am working on a house with a leaky walk-out basement. The house

is surrounded by a sidewalk on the three sides above the walkout, and water seems to be seeping through the control joints in the sidewalk into the basement. How can the joints be sealed to stop the leaks?

**A.** A pour-in, rubberized crack-filler can be used to seal the joints, but the joints may not be the problem. Often the backfill has settled under a sidewalk or patio slab, creating a void near the foundation. Water can then run into and along this void from any entry point. There may be a downspout or other source that is directing surface water into this void, or it could be soaking through the soil from outside the walks. The void can be filled with concrete using mud-jacking equipment. Mud-jacking can also tip the sidewalk away from the foundation slightly, in case it has settled toward the house.

If the basement wall is concrete block, water can enter almost anywhere and flow through the cores to a leaky area of the wall. In this case, first eliminate the surface water. If this does not solve the problem and you can't locate and stop the water source, you may have to remove the sidewalk, excavate around the foundation, and apply a waterproofing membrane and adequate perimeter drainage. ■

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### Stair-step method of applying shakes.

When installing wood shakes, interweave 18-inch-wide strips of No. 15 roofing felt between each course. Nail the felt strips to the sheathing along the top edge, and keep each strip two exposure widths above the butt edge of the course below. This way the felt isn't visible in the 1/2" gaps between the shakes.