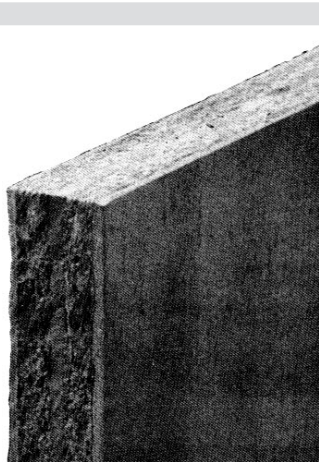


## Composite Floor Panel

by Clayton DeKorne



If the quality of plywood siding, soffits, and floor decks is a problem, you might check out *Comply*, a 5-ply, APA-approved composite particle-board and plywood panel. *Comply* is heavier than conventional panels but it is reportedly more durable than plywood, wafer board, and oriented-strand board. According to the manufacturer, the key to the board's strength is the center veneer ply that reduces linear expansion. According to the American Plywood Association (APA) this is the first of its kind and should be a good floor panel. The solid core can better resist point loads. Because of an unusual manufacturing process that presses the fiber core through inconsistencies in the face veneers, the face is very smooth and would be a suitable underlayment material for resilient flooring. In addition to 3/8-, 3/4-, 7/8-, and 1 1/8-inch-thick panels, the manufacturer mills *Comply* into V-groove and lap siding. Here too the center ply is an advantage. The center ply stiffens the tongue and keeps the rabbeted edge even. For more information, contact Oregon Strand Board, 34363 Lake Creek Drive, Brownsville, OR 97327; 503/466-5177.

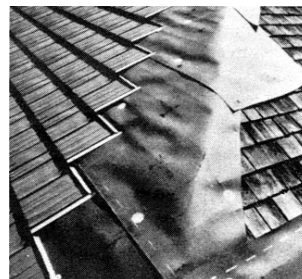
### Permanent Shakes

Two roofing products — *Cemwood Shakes* and *Rustic Shingles* — offer the look of wood shakes with a 50- and 40-year warranty, respectively. *Cemwood Shakes* are portland cement and wood-fiber roofing "shakes." Like many fiber-cement products, these shakes boost freeze-thaw resistance and have a Class A



Cemwood Shakes

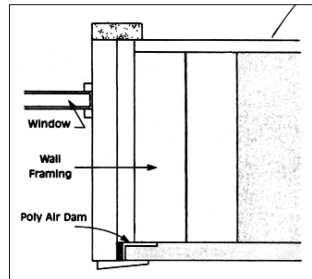
fire rating. And, like most shakes, these are tapered. The exposed butts are textured like wood, but the tip is smooth so the overlap lays on a solid base and can be walked on without breaking. *Cemwood Shakes* weigh in at about 580 pounds per square — about twice as much as asphalt shingles, but half as much as concrete tile. The shakes are 22 inches long and bundled in random widths of 5, 7, and 12 inches. According to the manufacturer, *Cemwood Shakes* can be cut with a carbide blade and nailed without predrilling by hand or with a pneumatic gun. For more information, contact American Cemwood Corporation, P.O. Box C, Albany, OR 97321; 503/928-6397.



Rustic Shingles

*Rustic Shingles* are 1x2-foot aluminum "shakes" which are extremely light — about 45 pounds per square — and carry a Class A fire rating. The shakes have a formed thickness of about 5/8-inch at the butt. To install, a single clip in one corner is nailed to the sheathing and the shingle is secured to interlocking channels on the adjacent shingles. Ten colors, including brown, green, and "cedar red," are available. The color is a baked-on enamel paint which is warranted against peeling and flaking. For more information, contact Classic Products, Inc., 299 Staunton St., Piqua, OH 45356; 800/543-8938.

### Sealing Around Windows and Rim Joists



The *Poly Air Dam* — an L-shaped PVC extrusion with a closed cell foam gasket — is designed to simplify air sealing along the rim joist, and the gap left between framing and jambs of windows and doors. The *Poly Air Dam* is stapled to window or door jacks, or to the sill plate, so that the gasket is compressed against the jamb or subfloor.

According to the manufacturer, the gasketed molding "installed with minimal care" reduced exfiltration by as much as 82%. The extrusions reportedly stay flexible down to 0°F. Based on a sample, the strips seem easy to work with: The plastic can be cut with a utility knife and mitered with a chop saw. The strips sell for about 30¢ per linear foot and are available in 8 foot lengths. *Poly Air Dam* is not yet carried by any retail outlets in the United States, but cartons (60 lengths per carton) can be purchased from the manufacturer for about \$150. For more information, contact Airtightness Consultants, 1304 13th St. N, Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 2T9, Canada; 403/329-0073.

### Long-wearing Chalk Lines



If you've ever lost a complicated layout to a rainstorm or heavy boot traffic, you'll recognize the need for *Chalk Line Saver* — a clear acrylic spray to permanently fix chalk lines. This stuff is not too different than hair-spray, but it's waterproof and doesn't smell quite as bad. And the can has a special nozzle which comes straight out the end and lets you spray with the can tipped upside down. For more information, contact Keson Industries, Inc., 1660 West Quincy Ave., Naperville, IL 60566; 708/369-8848. ■