



How To Install Louvers to Eliminate Condensation

Painting the exterior of a wood frame house is an expensive undertaking, even if you do it yourself. And it is particularly frustrating when the paint begins to blister and peel after just a few months. The cause: poor ventilation between the interior and exterior structures allows condensation to form on the newly applied paint. The result: unsightly peeling. Let your walls dry out, perform this procedure (this recipe is not for brick or stucco buildings).

Utensils

Pencil
Ruler
Hand or electric drill
1" inch wood bit
Caulking gun
Hammer
Small block of wood

Ingredients

Caulking compound or putty
Sufficient number of 1" inch louvers to be inserted around house exterior (use 6 louvers for every 4 feet)

Approximate Time: 5 To 10 Minutes Per Louver

Starting at any point on the exterior, measure off marks 16" inches on center (from center of one mark to center of next is called on center, as shown in Figure 36A. Precaution: Avoid making marks where later drilling will penetrate interior framing. The procedure for avoiding interior framing is as follows:

- Mark one spot, starting from your left at any corner of house.
- Drill into the void between interior and exterior partition.
- If the drill strikes interior frame, move 3" or 4" inches to the right, mark off the spot, and drill in as before. Errors in drilling may be rectified by inserting dummy louvers later on.
- Once you have drilled into a spot that does not make contact with interior frame, you may begin measuring 16" inches on center from that point all the way around the periphery of the house.

2. Make sure all marks are the same height from the ground so your job will look professional on completion.

- Drill holes at marks all the way around house.
- Apply putty by hand or caulking compound with caulking gun to lip of louver (Fig. 36B).
- Insert louver into drilled hole with slats angled downward to prevent rain from entering structure (Fig. 36C).
- Bang louver securely into place with hammer and wooden block (Fig. 36D).
- Make a series of parallel marks 6" inches down from eaves or face of structure, and repeat steps 2 through 6. The purpose of two rows of louvers is to insure proper ventilation (Fig. 36E).

Note: There are two types of louvers: plastic and aluminum. Aluminum is preferable, as it contains tighter louver slats and sometimes even a screen to keep out insects.

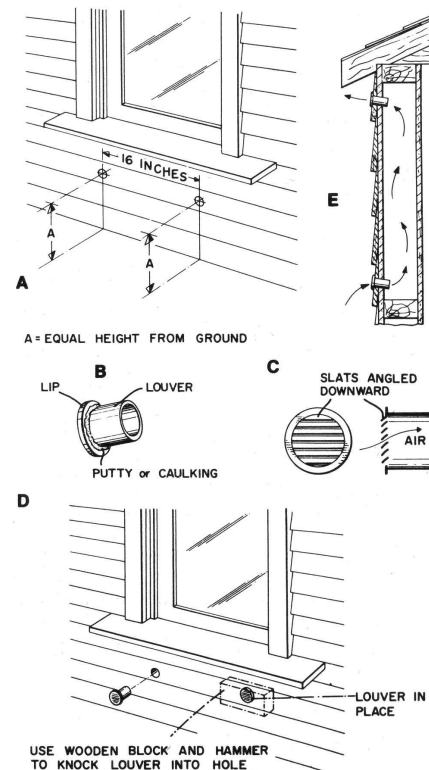


Figure 36.
Installing Louvers to Reduce Condensation