In most situations a typical starter strip is used to start the first course of siding. Special circumstances (panel application around decking, special roof lines and other unique atypical applications) may require other techniques to secure the first panel locking leg. This can be accomplished in several manners (as illustrated in Figures 1-3).
Step 1
A water-resistant material should be used to flash the inside and outside wall corners a minimum of 10” on each side before installation of the corner posts (Fig. 1).

Step 2
Place the corner post in position, allowing a 1/4” gap between the top of the post and the eave or soffit (Fig. 2).

NOTE: If vinyl or aluminum soffit will be installed, either install prior to corner post installation or allow for soffit and accessory thickness when positioning the height of the corner.

Position a nail at the top of the upper slot on both sides of the corner post, leaving a 1/16˝ gap between the nail heads and the corner post nailing hem. The corner post hangs from these nails. The balance of the nailing should be in the center of the slot, 8” to 12” apart, again leaving 1/16” between the nail head and the corner post. This allows for the expansion and contraction to occur at the bottom. The corner post should extend 1/4” below the starter strip. Make sure the posts are vertically straight and square.

Do not nail corner post tight.

Step 3
If more than one length of corner post is required, overlap the upper corner post over the lower corner post.

Splicing Outside Corner Post
Remove 1” from the nail hem and receiving channel of the bottom end of the top piece. Position uncut top end of lower post under bottom edge of upper post allowing a 1/4” gap for expansion and contraction. (Fig. 3).
**Splicing Inside Corner Post**

Cut 1” off all but the outer face of the upper portion of the bottom corner post. (Fig 4) Lap 3/4” of the upper post over the lower post, allowing 1/4” for expansion.

This method will produce a visible joint between the two posts, but will allow water to flow over the joint, reducing the chance of water infiltration.

**Capping a Corner Post**

**Step 1**

Corner posts on homes with a second-story overhang need to be capped by making the cuts shown. Allow approximately 2” extra length on the corner post. Trim away everything except the 2 faces. Fold the flaps created over each other as indicated (Fig. 5).

**Step 2**

Drill a 1/8” hole in the center through both layers of vinyl, and install a pop rivet to hold them in place. Cut a notch in both layers to allow clearance for the corner (Fig. 5).
**Step 1**
A water-resistant material should be used to flash the inside and outside wall corners a minimum of 10” on each side before installation of the 3-piece corner system (Fig. 1).

**Step 2**
Place the decorative corner starter on the outside wall corner, allowing a 1/4” gap between the top of the post and the eave or soffit, and extending 3/8” below the siding starter strip. Cut to length (Fig. 2).

Position a nail at the top of the upper full slot on both sides of the Decorative Corner Starter, leaving a 1/16” gap between the nail heads and the corner post nailing hem. The Decorative Corner Starter hangs from these nails. The balance of the nailing should be in the center of the slot, 8” to 12” apart, again leaving 1/16” between the nail head and the Decorative Corner Starter. This allows for proper expansion and contraction clearance. Make sure the Decorative Corner Starter is installed vertically straight and true.

**Step 3**
For typical installations, cut two 3-1/2” or 5” Window & Door Surround lineals to the same length as the Decorative Corner Starter. Snap the locking side of a Window & Door Surround into one side of the receiving lock section of the Decorative Corner Starter (Fig. 3). Repeat the procedure for installing the other Window and Door Surround.

**Step 4**
Make sure that all 3 parts are fully locked and line up evenly at the top and bottom. Fasten the Window & Door Surround lineals to the wall following the same nailing procedures outlined in Step 2 (Fig. 4).

**Do not nail corner post tight.**
The flashing detail shown is an industry accepted practice for minimum protection against water infiltration. These are various methods of flashing that will provide good results. Due to the wide variety of construction conditions that are beyond the control of the manufacturer, installers should consult applicable building codes and field to verify specific conditions needed for the type of window/door being used, construction method, and build location to ensure adequate water control.

**General Preparation for All Doors and Windows**

The following instructions should be followed when applying window flashing:

**Step 1**
Apply the flashing on the underside of the window first (Fig. 1). The flashing should extend past the nail flanges of any accessory to prevent water infiltration through the opening. The flashing should be long enough to direct water over the nail flange of the last course of complete siding panels.

**Step 2**
Follow this application with flashing on the sides of the window. Make sure to overlap the bottom flashing (Fig. 2).

**Step 3**
Finally, apply the flashing at the top of the window. Use this example as a model for applying flashing to other openings such as electrical outlets and doors (Fig. 3).

*NOTE: Sill the flashing is long enough to direct water over the nail flange of the last course of complete siding panels.*

**Step 4**
For even greater protection, tape the seams of the flashing.
Starter Nailing Procedures
Fasten starter to subwall framing every 8” to 12”, utilizing corrosion-resistant roofing type nails of sufficient length for proper securement. Nails should be driven flush in the center of the slots to take out starter looseness, but should not be overdriven (Fig. 4).

NOTE: To hold vertical starter in position, place one fastener at the upper side of a nailing slot near the top of the starter.

Starter Strip Installation

Step 1
Standard Windows
Option 1: Window and Door Surround butted to existing window casing.
Install Window and Door Surround new construction starter strip flush to all sides of the window casing (Fig. 5). Starter strip should be cut to the length of each window side or casing, and installed with the lock edge toward the window. Starter locking edge should lightly and evenly contact the window casing for proper securement of Window and Door Surround.

Option 2: existing window casings removed.
Shim outside edge of window jamb flush with subwall prior to siding installation (allow for thickness increase of added structural or insulating sheathings). Cut Window and Door Surround recessed starter strip to the length and width of the inside edge of the jamb. Install starter with the nailing strip facing outward to all sides of the window recess as in Figure 6.

Lineals should be nailed in the centers of the slots leaving about 1/16” between the back of the fastener head and the face of the lineal to allow for expansion/contraction (Fig. 1).

NOTE: to hold vertical lineals in position, place one fastener at the upper side of a nailing slot near the top of the lineal.

Step 2
Top Window and Door Surround Lineal
Measure the top of the existing casing or opening and add 7-1/2” (for 5” lineals add 10”) to the end of the Window and Door Surround. Measure 3-3/4” (for 5” lineals measure 5”) in from the end of the lineal along the locking leg and make a small mark.

Use a straight edge to mark and cut a false miter (Fig. 2). Cut a 1-1/4” long drain tab (Fig. 3). Repeat procedure on other end and snap top lineal into starter.

Recessed Windows
Cut Window and Door Surround recessed starter strip to the length and width of the recessed opening. Install starter with the nailing strip facing outward to all sides of the window recess as in Figure 6.

Lineals should be nailed in the centers of the slots leaving about 1/16” between the back of the fastener head and the face of the lineal to allow for expansion/contraction (Fig. 1).

NOTE: to hold vertical lineals in position, place one fastener at the upper side of a nailing slot near the top of the lineal.
**Step 3**
Side Window and Door Surround Lineal
For the upright sides of the window, measure the existing casing or opening and add 7-1/2” (for 5” lineals add 10”) to the end of the Window and Door Surround. On the end of the lineal that will install up, trim 1-1/4” notches in the Window and Door Surround as shown in Figure 1. The end of the lineal that installs down will use the same miter procedure as top lineal (Fig. 2). Repeat procedures on other side lineal and install into starter and top lineal miters (Fig. 3).

**Step 4**
Bottom Lineal
Measure the bottom of the existing casing or opening and add 7-1/2” (for 5” lineals add 10”) to the end of the Window and Door Surround. Trim 1-1/4” notches in the Window and Door Surround as shown in Figure 1. Repeat this procedure on the opposite side. Install bottom lineal into starter and side lineal miters.

*NOTES: The above illustrations show 3-1/2” Window and Door Surround. However, 5” Window and Door Surround will follow the same installation procedures.*
**Gable and Trim**

Before applying siding to the gables, the J-Channel should be installed to receive the siding at the gable ends (Fig. 1).

**Step 1**
Where the left and right sections meet at the gable peak, let one of the sections butt into the peak with the other section overlapping.

**Step 2**
A miter cut should be made on the face flange of this piece for better appearance.

**Step 3**
Fasten the J-Channel every 8” to 12”.

**Step 4**
If more than one length of J-Channel is required to span a wall surface, be sure to notch and overlap the J-Channels by 3/4”.

**Overlapping Accessories**

Accessories such as J-Channel, undersill trim, and H-Mold should be overlapped to avoid gapping during expansion and contraction. Cut accessories as shown in Fig. 2 & 3 at left.

*NOTE: When overlapping accessory, make sure it can expand at least 1/4”.*
Step 1
Install the flashing before the J-Channel to prevent water infiltration along the intersection of a roof and wall.

Step 2
Keep the J-Channel at least 1/2” from the roofline. Chalk a straight line up the roof flashing to guide J-Channel installation.

NOTE: Vinyl J-Channels should not be in direct contact with roofing shingles, since the shingles may transfer enough heat to the vinyl J-Channel to cause distortion. With dark shingles, or a south or west exposure, it is recommended to either use a metal J-Channel or raise the vinyl J-Channel approximately 2” off the shingles and install, having first ensured that there is sufficient flashing behind the J-Channel to prevent water infiltration.

Step 3
Overlap the J-Channel (lapping the upper piece over the lower piece) if it is necessary to use more than one piece.

Step 4
Extend the J-Channel past the edge of the roof, channeling water into the gutter, in order to ensure proper runoff.