

Fascia

What is Fascia

A detachable covering for the front part of a property is known as Fascia.

Types of Fascia's and Soffits: -

Different types of fascia's

There are three main types of fascia boards available on the market. The materials used for these are uPVC, vinyl, aluminum and timber. Each one has different qualities which need to be considered before installing them onto your roofline.

Wooden/Timber fascia's

Timber was once the main choice of fascia available for homeowners due to the visual benefits it added to the home. An issue that many were unable to resolve was the corrosion and rotting of the wood which would mean having to repair or replace the fascia on a frequent basis.



Benefits of timber fascia's

- Aesthetically pleasing to the eye
- An affordable short-term option
- Mostly water resistant

- Re-painting wood increases its resilience

Aluminum fascia's

Along with uPVC fascia's, aluminum has become one of the most popular alternatives to timber. The main downfall with aluminum fascia's is they are more expensive than both wood and uPVC.



Benefits of aluminum fascia's

- Versatile material that can work with or replace wood
- Easy to cut and install
- A low maintenance material
- Easy to paint and adapt to house design

uPVC fascia's

This is the best type of fascia board for homeowners who want to install their own fascia's onto their property. It is the most cost-effective material available today and is found on far more houses than any other type of fascia around today.



Benefits of uPVC fascia's

- Cheap and extremely durable material
- Can be installed quickly and easily
- High levels of weather protection
- Easy to clean and maintain
- Available in a wide range of color's

Vinyl Fascia

Vinyl siding is plastic exterior siding for houses and small apartment buildings, used for decoration and weatherproofing, imitating wood clapboard, board and batten or shakes, and used instead of other materials such as aluminum or fiber cement siding.



Advantages of Vinyl Fascia

- Vinyl fascia is typically much more affordable than other options.
- Vinyl fascia is one of the most durable types of fascia available.
- Another great benefit of vinyl fascia is its need for little maintenance. There is no need to scrape, paint or apply a stain year after year
- Whether you need a quick way to improve your home for selling, or you simply want a new look for the exterior of your home, vinyl fascia is a great option.

Step-By-Step Guide of installing Fascia

If you are planning on installing new fascia boards for the first time or replacing existing ones on a property you have just moved into, here is a step-by-step guide on how to do so correctly.

1. Preparation of tools is important for any significant DIY job. Have everything you need to hand before you begin working on the fascia board. This will save you time and stop you from having to go back and forth collecting the tools as and when you need them.
2. The sheathing and the board are the first things to be installed. You have the preference to decide which one comes first although try to get into the habit of fixing the sheathing and fascia board first to make the job more efficient. The reason is this will ensure they fit perfectly into the roof. Sub-fascia's are also a good idea, which act as boards behind the fascia's. These help to straighten the main fascia in the even the rafter is not sufficient.
3. White fascia's should be fixed with a minimum of 600mm centers, while foiled fascia's require a 40mm center. Marine grade stainless steel plastic headed nails are the products to use for this.
4. Leave a gap of 10mm between joints to allow for any expansion within the building. Use superglue to secure the joints on just one side of the fascia. If this is not done they detach over time.
5. If you are installing ventilation this needs to go directly on top of the fascia board to create an air pathway in order to comply with current building regulations.
6. Be aware of the type of roof you are working with. This will affect how you will install the fascia board onto the roof. For example, hip roofs allow you to quickly attach the fascia onto the rafter. On the other hand, a gabled roof may require you to create markings on the board to ensure you get the right fit.
7. The depth of the fascia board plays a key role in ensuring the installation goes correctly. On tiled roofs, there will be extra weight pushed up against the fascia, and without the right amount of depth, it could eventually collapse.

Tools You Will Need

Make sure you have the following tools and materials available before you start. These will ensure you are able to fix the fascia board into place to a high standard.

- Fascia board(s)
- Table saw
- Plane
- Power nailer
- Crimper
- Compound saw
- Clamps
- Chalk line

Soffit

Soffit is the material that covers the area beneath eaves, while fascia overhangs the roof rafters.

Different types of soffits

Similar to fascia's, there are a small selection of soffits available to choose from. Before investing your money into a soffit for your home, take into consideration your local climate as well as your budget constraints and DIY capabilities, as these will all make a difference to your final decision.

Timber soffits

Timber soffits do look fantastic when installed, creating a rustic appeal that other variants cannot match.



Advantages of timber soffits

- Adds aesthetic and financial value to the home
- Can be repainted as much as needed
- Has a natural, timeless appeal
- Recyclable and ecology friendly

Steel soffits

Steel soffits are seen as more preferable to wood as they offer more durability. It can also be purchased in a number of different color's. One main drawback is they can be quite expensive compared to some of the other more common materials.



Benefits of steel soffits

- Long lasting and durable material
- Can be pre-cut to match exact dimensions
- Range of color's to suit property style
- Stands up well to seasonal weather changes

Fiber cement

Fiber cement has become increasingly popular in the building trade finding a range of uses, especially in roofing materials. This extends into use for soffits, although their popularity is still some way behind uPVC.



Benefits of fiber cement soffits

- Lightweight and easy to use
- Broad selection of colors and styles available
- Extremely weatherproof material
- An affordable option for most homeowners

uPVC soffits

The use of uPVC material is growing everywhere you look within the home, be it on windows, doors, roofing and much more. This type of soffit will last for years to come and is available at an extremely affordable price point.



Benefits of uPVC soffits

- Rot and water resistant
- Available at a very low price
- Comes in a wide range of color's
- Easy to install onto your property
- Can be maintained without much effort

Aluminum soffits

This soffit sits at the more expensive end of the price spectrum, although it does bring with it a number of long-term benefits. Along with uPVC, aluminum soffits are usually what most property owners go for today.



Benefits of aluminum soffits

- The material will not crack or chip
- Able to withstand high levels of moisture
- Low-level maintenance
- Uncomplicated installation process

Vinyl soffits



Benefits of Vinyl soffits

- Vinyl soffit is the most affordable material you can buy.
- Vinyl soffit will be very low-maintenance.
- One of the surprising advantages of vinyl soffit for your home in Nashville is that it is very customizable.

Step-By-Step Guide of installing Soffit

Below is a step-by-step guide on how to install a soffit onto your roofline. This will enable you to find the right measurements as well as perfectly securing the soffit into place.

1. Before you begin you need to find the measurements and dimensions of the area requiring the soffit. Panels can be purchased in 5-metre lengths that are usually 300mm wide. Buy enough soffit to cover the required area and between 5-10% extra to account for any overlaps or wastage.
2. The next thing to do is to check the surfaces to ensure they are straight and even. If there are any loose boards, make sure these are reattached in case they affect the installation. Remove any trim that is currently in place along with the guttering from the side of the house.

Take time during this part as they can be damaged easily. If you are planning on installing new gutters then this will not matter.

3. Use either an 'F' trim/channel or a 'J' trim/channel as the receiving channels. These should be held in place by nails with a gap of 12 inches in-between each one. When you have to attach a soffit around the corner of the property, leave a ¼ inch gap to allow for the expansion of the walls.
4. Next, measure from the wall to the fascia and take off half an inch for any movement that may occur. Then cut the soffit panels to the required length. A standard saw works fine to cut through the panel cleanly and safely.
5. Now it is time to install the panels. This should be done one at a time into the channel, making sure the panels are at a 90-degree angle with the wall. Nail each panel into position and ensure the grooves of each one is in line with the others alongside them.

What You'll Need

Below is a small list of tools you'll need in order to fit the soffit boards into place correctly:

- Soffit panels
- Channel strips
- Panel fascia
- Pry bar
- Tape measure
- Hand saw
- Hammer
- Nails
- Ladder
- Siding
- Framing square

Common soffit and fascia maintenance issues

Some soffit and fascia types will require more maintenance than others. Here is a short overview of the types of issues that can occur over time:

- **Cracks and discoloration**

If you start to see cracks on the surface of the soffit or fascia this will mean you may have to replace the affected area. Discoloration can be repaired by repainting the space to freshen up the exterior.

- **Rotting and imperfections**

Exposure to the outdoor elements will mean that fascia's and soffits will show signs of wear and tear over time. Wooden types usually show more degradation than other materials, leading to rot and mold which will require replacing.

- **Water leaks**

As long as the roof system has been installed correctly, soffits and fascia's will not usually be the reason for the sudden appearance of a leak. However, if mistakes have been made during installation a leak can filter out behind the fascia. This will then move down to the soffit and potentially into the property. If the gutter system is overflowing or incorrectly installed, this can also lead to water dripping on the fascia and soffit.

Thank You