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association.

Color may seem insignificant, but check with your HOA before starting any project. Pre-applied colors direct from fiber cement siding manufacturers are now available in a palette of a dozen to 16 colors and stained wood effects, (varies by region) and most with a 15-year color fast guarantee.

Vinyl siding color is limited to a manufacturer's palette – often just 10, occasionally up to 40 standard colors. Alcoa is offering its Dream Color program, with up to 700 available, on a custom order basis. This is an option that may provide just the look you want in vinyl; though if you order it, you own it.

There will be no second-guessing your selection, and no do-over. Premium vinyl products come with a limited lifetime warranty against color fading. You must make a confident choice, and like that color for a very long time, since there won't be a reason or opportunity to repaint in a couple of years.

Both vinyl and cement siding are available in shingle or shake styles to coordinate with varieties of siding profiles. Either siding is impervious to insects or rot. Should it be necessary to replace, vinyl is highly recyclable, and requires no finish or solvent to clean or maintain. Fiber cement siding often contains recycled product in its composition, and additionally is fire resistant.

While some clients opt for fiber cement siding, others are perfectly happy with vinyl for their home. Even though I've been on with all of our own construction projects, it will be too soon for me if I never hold a paintbrush again.

That's why the choice for our own seaside home was vinyl, and it came through like unscathed. These hands are now meant for nail polish and holding nothing more burdensome than a cool, yummy refreshment.

You, too, should assess how each choice may impact your lifestyle. Either way you go, your home's exterior can enjoy good looks and a long life.

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Vinyl Siding

