



FIRST
NATIONS
HOUSING
COMMUNITY



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**Building Stronger
Communities Starts with
Empowering Youth!**





Builders Challenge Facilitation Team

Leading the Builders Challenge at the First Nations Housing Conference



Meet the educators guiding today's hands-on building competition. A team dedicated to empowering youth, sparking confidence, and showcasing the skilled trades in action.



These facilitators also teach in the Indigenous Skilled Trades Training Programs, where students learn by building full-scale homes for First Nations communities.



They will bring their experiences directly into the builder's challenge arena.





Your Builders Challenge Leads



Lisa MacLeod

Program Vice - Principal Superior-Greenstone District School Board/
Lakehead Public Schools



Kyle Trodd

Program Teacher, Hammerskjold High School, Thunder Bay



Tim Aylward

Indigenous Skilled Trades Training Program, Red Rock High School, Nipigon



Cole Moro

Program Teacher, Hammerskjold High School, Thunder Bay



Maurice Thiboutot

Program Teacher, Red Rock High School, Nipigon

Together, they support Youth as they build skills, solve problems, and take on real-world construction challenges.



About the Indigenous Skilled Trades Program

The Indigenous Skilled Trades Program is a community-driven program rooted in Indigenous Knowledge.

The Indigenous Skilled Trades Training Programs (ISTTP) operate across three high schools in Northwestern Ontario, delivered in partnership with the **Superior-Greenstone District School Board, Lakehead Public Schools, and Matawa First Nations.**





Students Building Real Homes for Communities

- ➔ Real-World skilled trades experiences
- ➔ Community Partnerships
- ➔ A tangible contribution to addressing housing needs.





Students and Builders: Real World Impact

- ➔ Students work in teams to do design, build, and finish homes, which are taken to communities
- ➔ Homes Projects delivered to communities
- ➔ Each build is an opportunity for mentorship, leadership, and cultural learning





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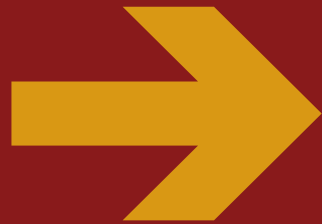


Interior Pictures



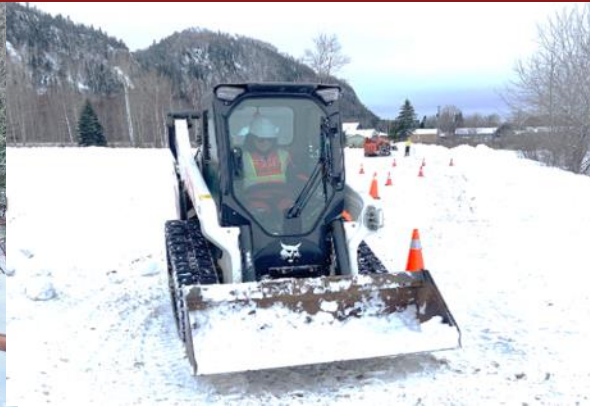


Students Building Real Homes for Communities



Why It Matters

Students gain certifications, confidence, leadership skills, and pride knowing their work builds strength, safety, and homes in their own communities.





Setting the Stage for the Builders Challenge

Today, builders challenge participants will:

- ➔ Demonstrate hands-on technical skills
- ➔ Work collaboratively under time pressure
- ➔ Learn from trades experts and educators
- ➔ Celebrate their growing strengths as future tradespeople and community leaders

This challenge isn't just a competition. It's a celebration of youth, community, and the power of education that is grounded in culture, purpose, and real-world impact.



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Challenge #1: Installing Flashing

Breakdown of the challenge

Participants focus on proper water management, learning to install flashing, so water is directed away from walls and windows.

They practice folding, angling, and fastening the flashing, including hidden nails, while managing a slight slope for effective drainage.

This challenge demonstrates how attention to detail at this stage protects the structure and sets the foundation for the siding installation.





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Video: Nail Gun





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Challenge #1: Key Objectives

Lead Facilitator: Cole Moro

- ➔ Secure Strapping
- ➔ Locating and Installing Marking Studs
- ➔ Install Window Flashing
- ➔ Install Trim Around Window
- ➔ Install Window Trim
- ➔ Seal to the Weather Barrier





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Review Safety & Explain the Purpose of Strapping





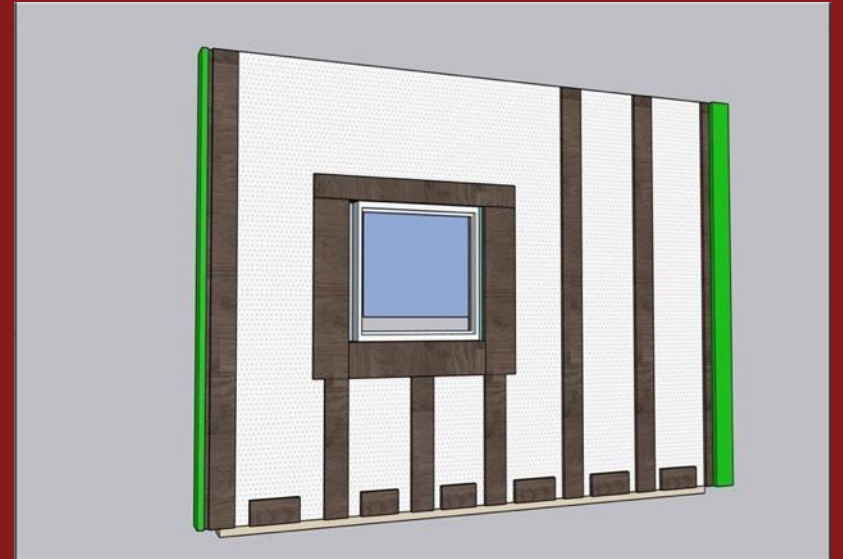
Locating Studs and Marking for Accurate Placement



Strapping must be solidly attached to the studs

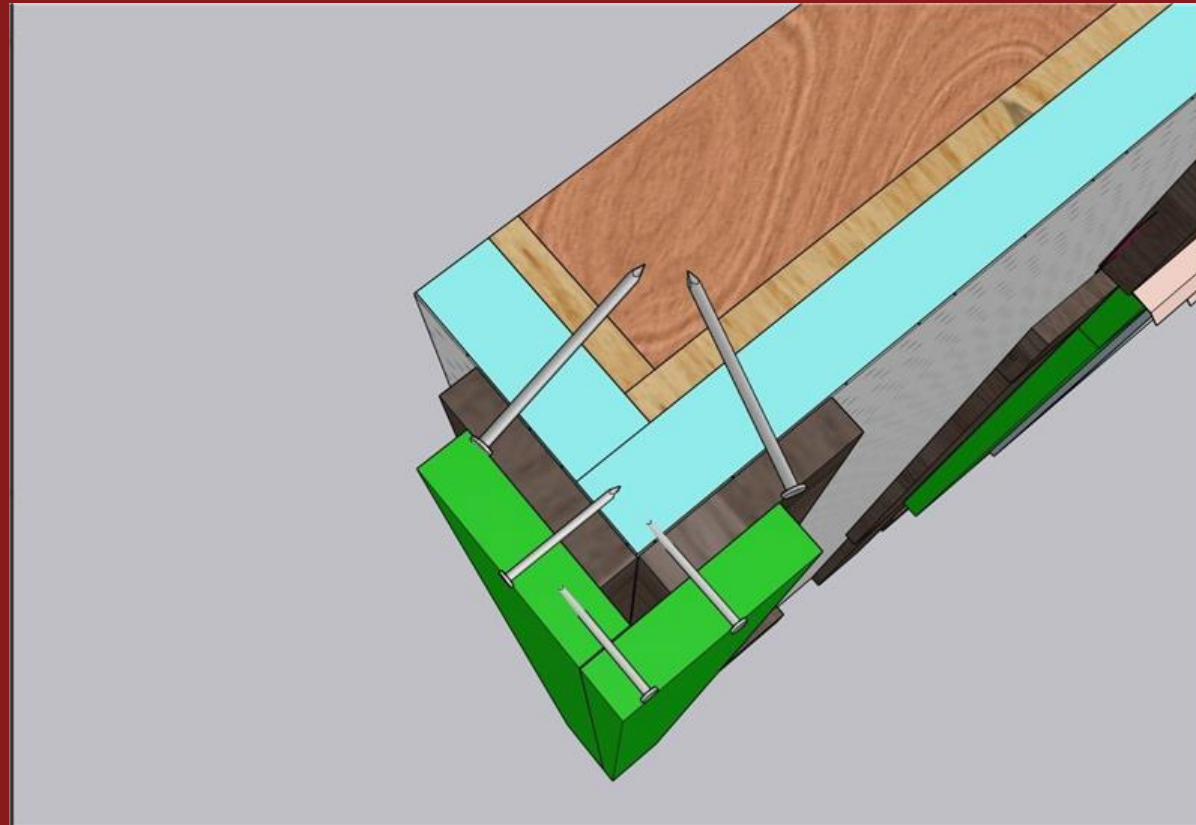


Nail one piece of strapping to the left corner to complete the corner (The face, not the side plank)



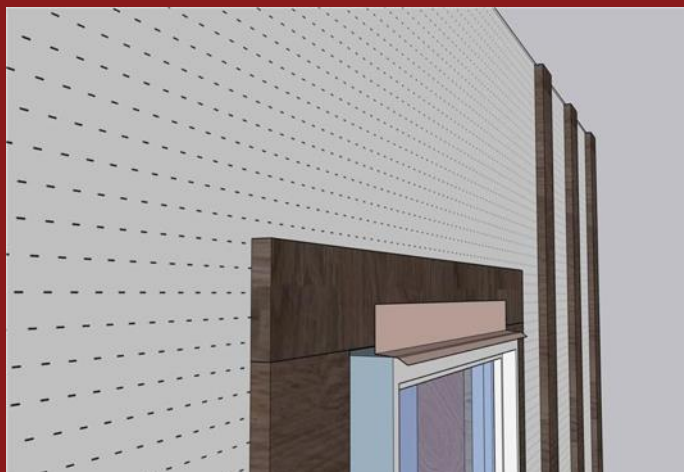


Hitting the Corner Stud





Fitting & Fastening Window Flashing



Adjust to fit before nailing



Nail flashing properly



Flashing is often improperly installed or left out entirely





Nail on the Window Trim



Place a window trim snug on the bottom with 3/8-inch gap above the flashing



Nail onto strapping



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Nail on Trim Flashing



Single long nail



Use a 2-1/2-inch nail firmly to stud without denting the flashing



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Sealing Flashing to the Weather Barrier





Challenge #2: Installing Trim



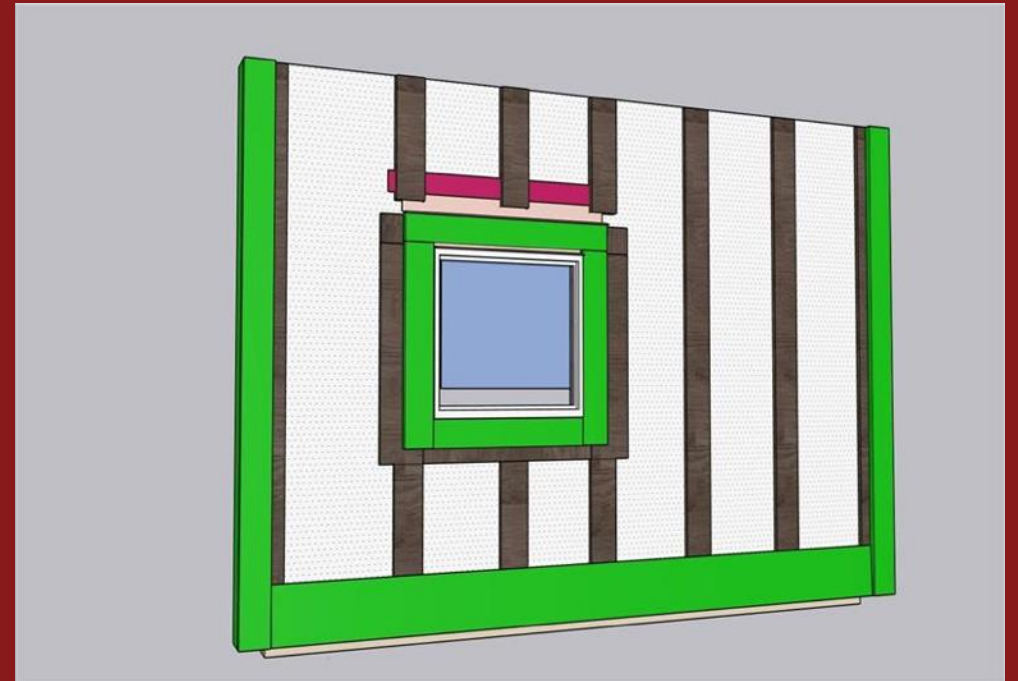
Lead Facilitator: Maurice Thiboutot

Youth prepare the wall by installing strapping and trim, creating a framework that will support the siding boards. Participants learn to align the trim correctly, anchor nails into studs and strapping, and handle corners and insulation pushouts. This challenge reinforces the importance of preparation in achieving a smooth, precise siding installation.



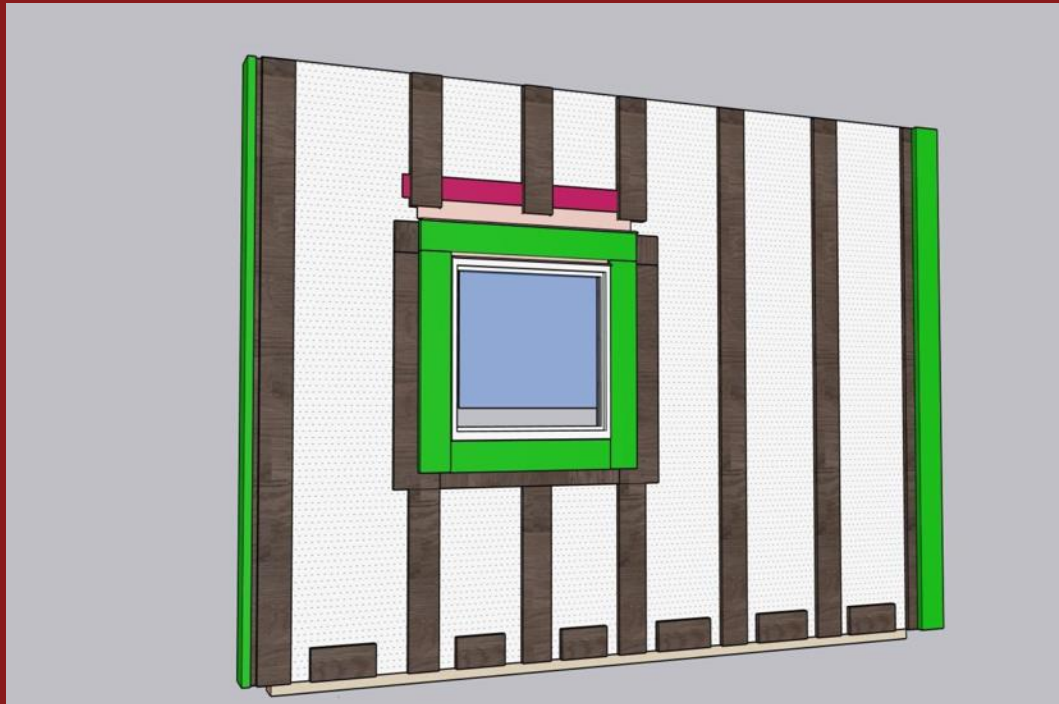
Challenge 2: Key Objectives

- ➔ Nail on vertical strapping over the window
- ➔ Nail on corner trim
- ➔ Position, level, and nail on starter strip
- ➔ Nail on one full piece of Lap Board





Nailing on Vertical Strapping Over the Window



Nail on vertical strapping over the window



Be careful not to nail through the flashing



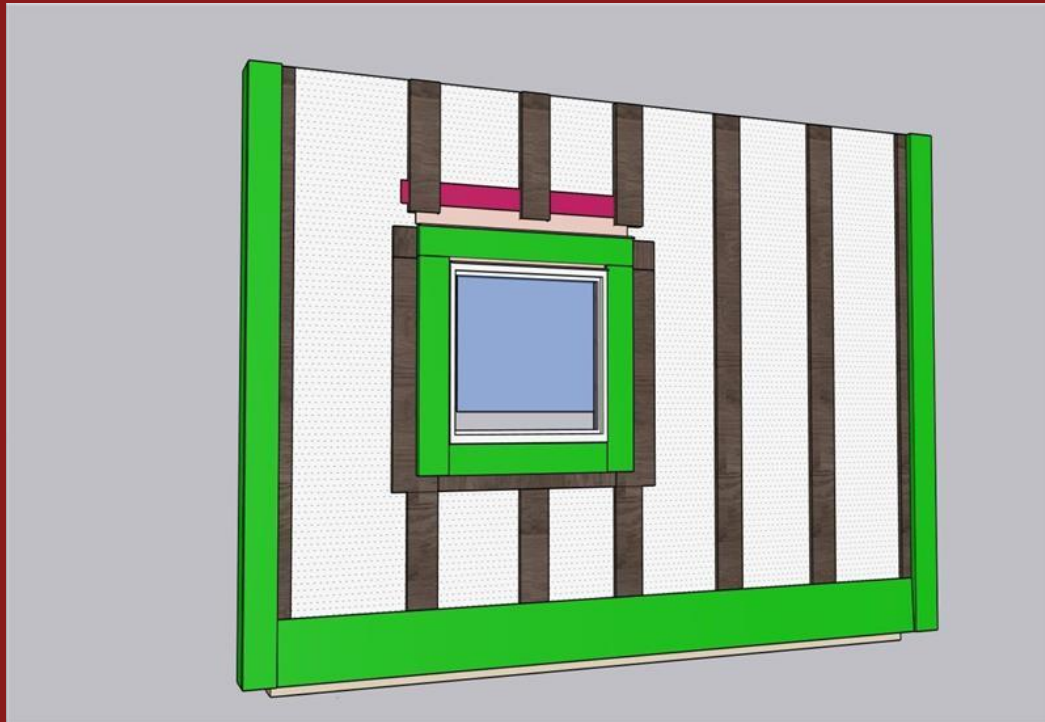
Leave 2-inch drainage space between strapping and window



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Nail on Corner Trim



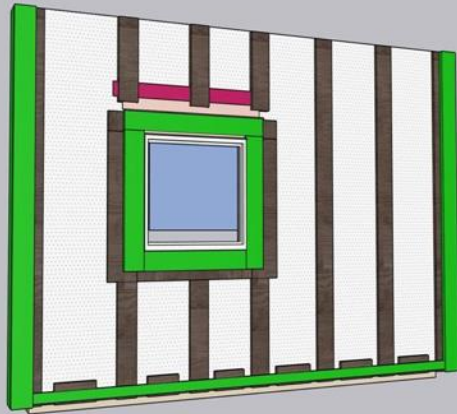
Nail on missing corner trim piece over the strapping



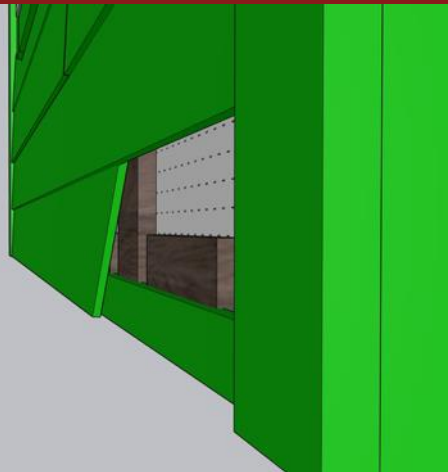
Nails should be spaced every 8 inches



Position, Level, and Nail on Starter Strip



Starter strip must be straight and level



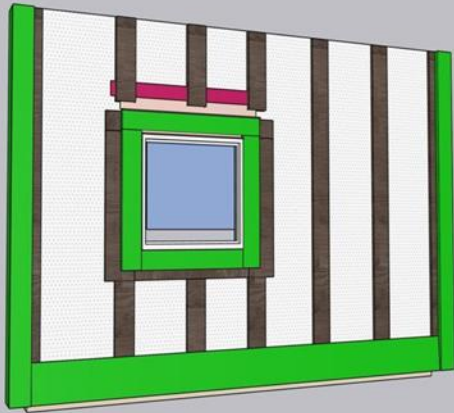
Starter strip is typically 1-1/2-inch x 3/8-inch wide



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Nail on One Full Piece of Lap Board



- Chalk lines are important
- There must be a 3/16-inch gap between the boards and trim
- Double nail the LP Siding with 1-inch nails
- Nail is over the strapping boards
- Practice accurate hammering



Demonstrate the Gecko Guides





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Challenge 3: Installing Lap Siding Boards



Lead Facilitator: Kyle Trodd

The final stage brings everything together as participants install lap siding boards with proper overlap, hidden fasteners, and strategically placed butt joints. Youth plan board placement around windows, demonstrate where caulking would go, and use small tools and jigs to ensure a neat finish.

By focusing on technique, planning, and detail, participants learn to construct walls that are durable and flawlessly installed.



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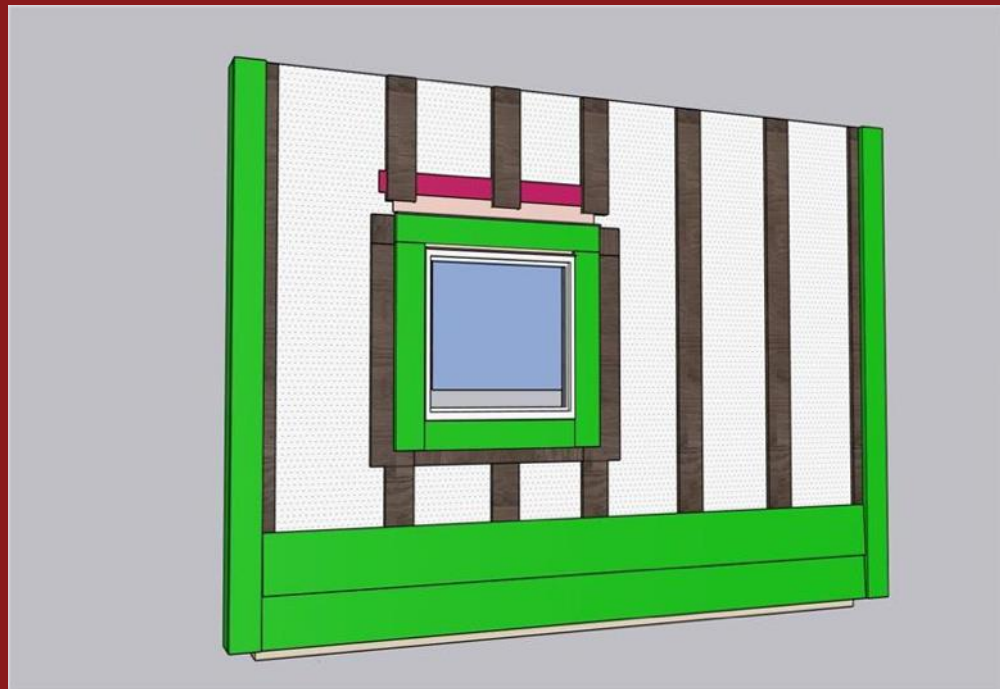
Challenge #3 Key Objectives



- ➔ Install second row – full board
- ➔ Install third board with a butt joint
- ➔ Nail on quickly full boards until you reach the window.
- ➔ Measure and Cut notch in lapboard to fit around the bottom of the window.
- ➔ Mark caulking locations
- ➔ Attach as many boards as possible – keep going!



Install Second Row – Full Board



There must be a 3/16-inch gap between the boards and trim



Double Nail Lap Board on all strapping



Use 1-inch nails

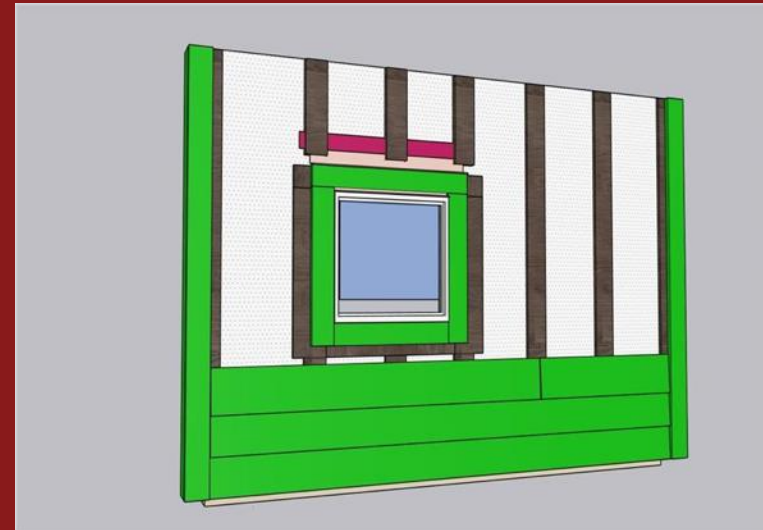
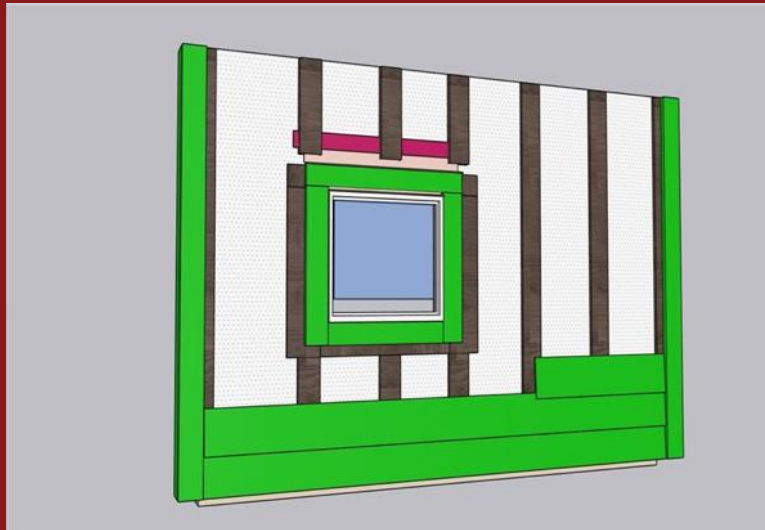


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Install Third Board with a Butt Joint

- ➔ Joint always falls over the middle of the strapping
- ➔ 2 nails at the end of any lap board





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Leveling Techniques & Butt Joints



All plank butt joints must fall over strapping board to secure both boards



Measure and Cut notch in lapboard to fit around the bottom of the window.



- ➔ Must fit snug to bottom of the window trim frame
- ➔ Cut out and recess for the window frame
- ➔ Nail on to strapping

Over the window - there must be a 3/8-inch gap for the flashing over the trim frame



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Mark Caulking Locations





Miiigwetch!