

# **Oriented Strand Board ( OSB )**

**By: Inspector Weeks      613.290.3697**

**I am considering the purchase of a house in the Lac Ste Marie area. It has what looks like a painted wood chipboard as its siding. Is this acceptable or does it need to be removed ?  
Patrick Sum , Ottawa**

**The material you are referring to is called Oriented strand board (OSB), and was first developed in the 1980'**

**s. OSB is not chipboard, flake board, particle board, or aspenite. It has been specifically designed to be the most dependable, versatile, and environmentally efficient wood panel on the market today. OSB uses only freshly harvested trees from sustainable fast growing forests or tree farms. The trees are processed into precise strands averaging 4 inches long and 1 inch wide. The strands are oriented length-wise on the exterior and cross-aligned on the interior. The alternating layers are then bonded with resins under high heat and pressure. The resulting product is very strong and uniform and shares many of the same properties as plywood.**

**OSB, although a very durable product it is still only designed for short term exposure to the elements. The fact that it was painted may give it slightly more resistance to the rain, snow and sun, but it still needs to be protected. The first thing would be to check that all the panels are well fastened and free of deterioration. Then, rather than covering it with a durable vinyl siding, install 2 inches of rigid foam insulation directly over the OSB. Strap the new insulation with 1x4 spruce or pine strapping, cover the complete house with a house wrap and install the siding to the strapping. You have now turned a poor situation into a good one by adding an R-10 of thermal resistance to the outside of the home. With heating costs being what they are you will appreciate the savings next winter.**

**I welcome your questions please forward them to , Inspector Weeks ,c/o Peter Weeks Home Inspections [PWHI@sympatico.ca](mailto:PWHI@sympatico.ca) or by phone at 613.290.3697.**

**Peter Weeks has been a Chelsea resident for 19 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing Residential Home Inspections for about four years. He is an Associate Member of OAHI (Ontario**

**Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB in Good Standing.**

**A home inspection can be one of the most important investments you'll ever make. Choose Peter Weeks to provide you and your family PEACE OF MIND during the buying process.**