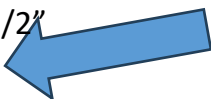


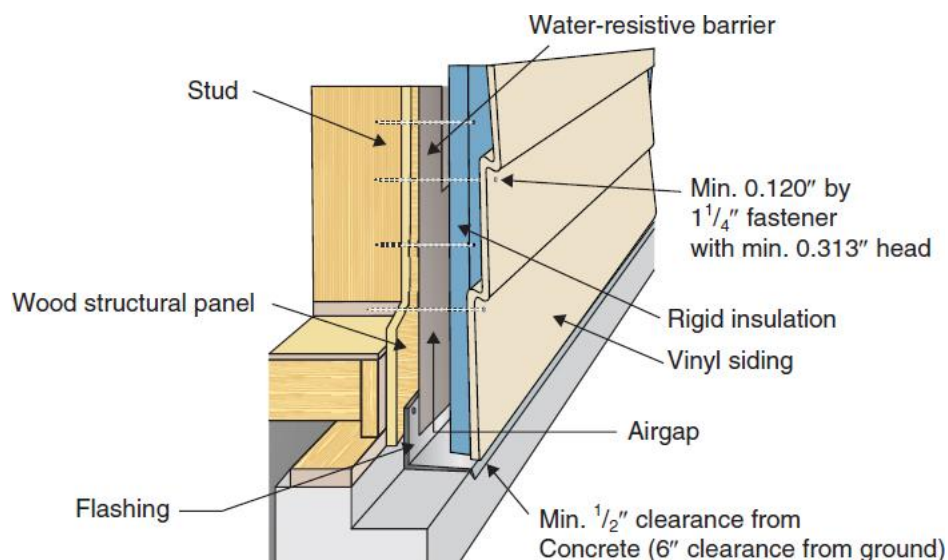
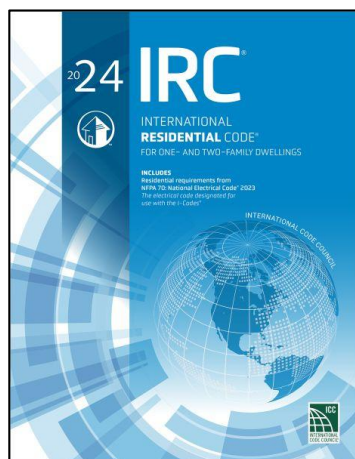
## 2021 IRC Question Of The Week

Unless otherwise specified by the cladding manufacturer or this code, polypropylene, insulated vinyl and vinyl claddings shall have clearance of at least \_\_\_\_ from the ground and at least \_\_\_\_ from other adjacent surfaces such as roofs, decks or slabs.

- A) 2", 1/4"
- B) 4", 3/8"
- C) 6", 1/2"
- D) N/A



In the 2021 IRC, a minimum cladding distance to soil is a requirement in Section R304 for protection of wood and wood-based products against decay. But you will not find those requirements for polypropylene or vinyl claddings.



### R703.3.1 Siding clearance at wall and adjacent surfaces.

Unless otherwise specified by the cladding manufacturer or this code, polypropylene, insulated vinyl and vinyl claddings shall have clearance of not less than 6 inches from the ground and not less than 1/2 inch from other adjacent surfaces (decks, roofs, slabs)

New 2024 Section R703.3.1 contains minimum clearances between siding and the grade, slabs, and other horizontal surfaces similar to clearances for protection from wood decay in Section R304. With vinyl siding materials, there are reasons to require this spacing, including heat building up on horizontal surfaces, expansion and contraction changes that occur in some siding materials, and moisture management issues. A 1/2-inch clearance creates an air gap between materials and intersecting surfaces, such as the roof or a deck, while a distance of six inches from soils is required. Note that the distance to soil is consistent with requirements in Section R304, Protection of wood and wood-based products against decay.