Measure the distance from the inside of the J-channel to the outside of the wooden soffit at several locations to make sure the soffit depth is consistent. Cut soffit panels 1/4 in. shorter than the measurement. If there are variations in depth, adjust cut lengths accordingly.

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Sound enough to hold the new fascia nails. Check the wood quality by jamming a screwdriver tip into the wood. Replace punky or rotten wood with straight pine boards the same width and thickness as the old.

Shingle moldings are narrow trim boards nailed to the top of the fascia if gutters aren’t used. They, like drip edge, direct water runoff away from the face to forestall weather damage. Pry them off with a flat bar and pull any leftover nails to prepare for the

**Tricks of the trade for a quality job**

The devil is in the details. The difference between poor and quality workmanship is obvious when you examine crisp corners, clean miters and flat surfaces. Here’s the important stuff:

**J-channel tips**

Nail J-channel in place tight against the existing soffit with 1-1/4 in. shingle nails driven into the soffit framing. Spend time on corners. You’ll be looking at them for a long time.