REX LUMBER COMPANY

A fresh look for our New Jersey office, using

accoya® color & grad®

NJ Yard shortly after opening in 1971

When the Rex Lumber Company opened our third operation in Englishtown, New Jersey in 1971, the newly constructed office featured diagonal Cedar lap siding – a hallmark of 1970s commercial architecture. Fast forward to 2025, and we've given the building a complete exterior makeover that showcases some of our leading architectural materials. We adopted a Scandinavian-farmhouse style using **Accoya® Color Grey** shiplap siding and **Grad® Mini Rail System**, with clean lines and long-term performance in mind.

The transformation balances modern style with functional performance and provided our team firsthand experience in the installation process.

The renovation included new windows, siding, light fixtures, gutters, gardens, and a new roof. The siding design, envisioned by our NJ Managers, presents a look that incorporates rustic warmth and natural elements with clean, minimalist lines that feel timeless yet contemporary.

"Perhaps most importantly," notes Greg Hall, NJ Mill Manager, "***is that we don't have to worry about applying a finish, scheduling regular maintenance, or replacing boards any time soon"***.

While working on remodeling our New Jersey location, contractor Dave Paulson, of Paulson Brothers Construction, was impressed with the performance and workability of Accoya® Color Grey and Grad® Mini Rail System. Paulson Brothers adapt to building trends, and are open to using new building materials.

"The installation process was smooth from start to finish", Dave remarked**. "Each board was *abnormally straight*, with cutting and routing workability similar to that of Eastern White Pine."**

Dave also noted that:

- With using **Grad® Mini Rails System**, no face screws or individual fastener clips sped up installation
- Using **Accoya® Color Grey**, mitered corners blended cleanly when sanded, and excess rain and sun didn't cause movement or cupping.

Spotlight: Accoya® Color Grey

For the siding material, we selected 4/4 x 6" Accoya® Color Grey, which we ran in a custom shiplap profile through our moulder. Known for exceptional dimensional stability and durability, Accoya offered the consistent performance needed to achieve long-term peace of mind.

Updated windows, siding, light fixtures, gutters, gardens, and a new roof

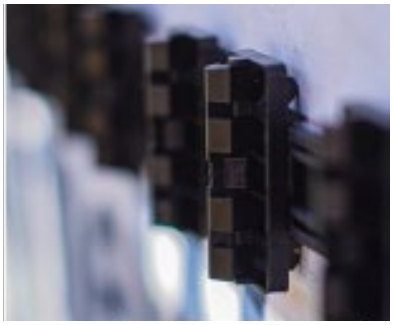
Accoya® Color Grey undergoes a proprietary acetylation process that modifies the wood at a molecular level, reducing the ability of the cell walls to absorb water. This feature was key for New Jersey's fluctuating weather, and the contractor was surprised when he learned he could leave the boards outside on a rainy night. The boards were soaked, then baked in the sun, and still maintained their shape with no visible movement or cupping.

Lightweight and easy to handle, Accoya mitered corners blended cleanly when sanded and performed with predictability. This is because the grey dye runs through the entire board, sanding and blending were simple, and penetrations disappeared easily with a quick mix of Gorilla Glue, sawdust, and a pass with 100-150 grit sandpaper. The consistency reminded the contractor of working with MDF – "super stable". The result speaks for itself, and Jim Curley, NJ Yard Manager, says the exterior has "dramatically transformed our building with a fresh, modern look."

For more information about Accoya® and Accoya® Color Grey please visit our website by scanning this QR Code.

Spotlight: Grad Rainscreen and Mini Rail System

To achieve seamless exterior support, we turned to **Grad Rainscreen and Mini Rail system**, which secures the cladding fastener-free while delivering structural integrity. It was Dave's crew's first time working with Grad®, but the installation proved to be a "piece of cake." What stood out most was the simplicity – once the Mini Rail was secured to the building, the siding boards snapped neatly into place with just a rubber mallet.



Since adding Grad to our catalog, it has quickly gained traction among builders and architects who value both installation efficiency and mechanical reliability. That confidence is backed by Grad's 20-year warranty, making it an ideal choice for projects where longevity matters.

The renovation also let our New Jersey office and yard staff see the installation firsthand, providing a deeper understanding of Grad's technical aspects. Dave's team chose to run the siding boards vertically, which meant installing the Grad® Mini Rails horizontally – a design choice that complemented the modern aesthetic while showcasing the system's versatility. Vertical linearity provides additional water management since rainwater flows through the open space between the rail and back of the outer cladding.

Grad® Mini Rail is ideal for:

- Statement exteriors and contemporary spaces
- Coastal homes and shore applications
- Commercial features and refined residential elevations
- Projects requiring clean, fastener-free appearances

For more information about Grad Rails, please visit our website by scanning this QR code.

REX LUMBER COMPANY

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