

A Couple's Dream Home Survives Hurricane Ike with the Help of CraneBoard® SOLID CORE SIDING®

Can you imagine the feeling? Your community has just experienced near total destruction due to a hurricane. Watching the constant 24-hour television news, you anticipate the worst. For weeks you and your neighbors are restricted access to the area, yet when you are finally allowed back to survey the damage you see one home standing almost unscathed. That home is yours. That's exactly what happened to Nancy and James Elledge of Galveston, Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.



Hurricane Ike hit the Texas coast hard on September 13, 2008 making landfall first in Galveston as a category 2 hurricane with sustained winds of 110 mph. The wind, rain and flooding that followed made Ike the third most destructive hurricane to ever hit the United States. For three weeks after the hurricane, the Elledge's were not allowed to return to Galveston to see if their dream home had weathered the storm. When they finally drove down their street, they were amazed to see their home still standing and with practically no damage. The Elledge's credit CraneBoard® SOLID CORE SIDING® from Exterior Portfolio® by Crane for the success.

"We were worried about our house. I thought I was going to come back to ridiculous damage," said James Elledge. "Out of the entire neighborhood our house had the least amount of damage. We only lost three shingles."

The Appeal of Easy Installation and Maintenance

As the Elledge's prepared to build their dream home, they did extensive research to select the best exterior cladding for their home. Fiber cement, being very popular in the Texas market, was a first thought. But after considering the amount of time and money required to maintain fiber cement, the Elledge's looked elsewhere.

The Elledge's began searching online for other low maintenance exterior cladding choices that were extremely durable and would perform well in humid conditions. In their search, they kept turning up a cladding James Elledge had never heard of before called CraneBoard from Exterior Portfolio by Crane. Not only was CraneBoard attractive and stylish, the siding had some of the best performance features, especially in wind resistance. But the most important features to James at the time were the easy installation and maintenance-freedom.

"I'm a contractor by trade, so I knew I would be putting up the siding myself. I've worked with fiber cement in the past. It's heavy and dusty. CraneBoard was light. I was able to hold it up on my own," said Elledge.



CraneBoard features SmartCORE™ insulated foam backing for increased energy efficiency, greater impact resistance, improved noise reduction. Plus, its flawless, milled cedargrain texture gives the siding an authentic presence. Different than traditional vinyl siding, CraneBoard is offered in three distinct panel configurations – three, six-inch boards (CraneBoard 6); two, seven-inch boards (CraneBoard 7); and two, ten-inch vertical boards (CraneBoard Board & Batten). CraneBoard 6 and 7 panels are situated on top of one another to match the profile and give the look of true, rustic cedar. CraneBoard's SmartCORE Insulation provides an R-Value of 2.6-4.0 depending on product style, which is up to 20 times the R-Value of fiber cement and up to four times the R-Value of traditional vinyl siding with standard backer board. In addition, the SmartTRACK™ system provides the ultimate moisture management to draw excess moisture away from the siding.

And Don't Forget the Color

Color was the next benefit. The Elledge's knew they had to find the perfect color, as the cladding would be on the house for a very long time. The color had to be right for them, as well as right for the neighborhood. They were impressed with the wide array of color options available in CraneBoard.

Exterior Portfolio by Crane's Classic Color Collection is a full range of 13 soft, understated shades and pleasing neutrals. The Coastal Shores™ Collection enhances exterior designs with four additional bold, rich hues. In the end, the Elledge's opted for CraneBoard Double 7 in Cypress. While they were very happy with their color selection, their neighbors seem even more impressed.

"People pull up all the time and ask who painted our house," says Elledge. "They believe it's fiber cement and are surprised when they find out it's a great looking vinyl cladding. We have people that drive up and start taking pictures."

Exterior Portfolio by Crane focuses on exterior design options for architects, builders, contractors, and homeowners. Exterior Portfolio presents a complete collection of essential exterior surfaces, a mixture of textures and a palette of vivid colors to create unique expressions for home exteriors. The first of its kind in the building products industry, Exterior Portfolio offers an extensive collection of cladding products, including CraneBoard SOLID CORE SIDING. The Elledge's could not agree more with the Exterior Portfolio brand promise of exceptional exterior style.



The Benefit That Mattered Most

As their research continued, the Elledge's came across what would be, for them, the most important benefit of CraneBoard SOLID CORE SIDING – the product's superior wind resistance rating. While reviewing an article in the online edition of *Hurricane Protection News*, James Elledge first learned of CraneBoard and how this attractive, yet incredibly strong cladding withstood several damaging hurricanes that hit Florida in 2004. The Elledge's found other customer testimonials about homes clad with CraneBoard that survived devastating tornadoes and hurricanes. Living in an area that regularly sees inline winds of 50 to 80 mph, a siding that could hold up was imperative, but Ike was the ultimate test. And CraneBoard SOLID CORE SIDING passed with flying colors.

"Everyone around us got beat up pretty good," said Elledge after Ike hit. "I had no buckling. Even the piece that I had not nailed in all the way stayed in place. The house had minimal damage and everyone in the neighborhood was impressed, especially because it was under construction at the time."

Exterior Portfolio by Crane tests all its siding in vacuum chambers to determine wind resistance ratings. With a wind resistance rating of up to 200 mph, CraneBoard is designed to withstand a category 3 hurricane, according to the Saffir/Simpson Classification System for Hurricanes.

While no siding or home can completely escape damage from a hurricane or tornado, based on previous storms, the Exterior Portfolio by Crane engineers were confident that SOLID CORE SIDING could weather a powerful storm. The Elledge's will happily attest to that fact.

"People tried to talk me into another siding alternative. I usually listen. I'm really glad I didn't this time. CraneBoard is different and helped to save our home."

For more design inspiration or product information, visit www.exteriorportfolio.com or call **800-366-8472**.



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1441 Universal Road • PO Box 1058 • Columbus, OH 43216 • 800.366.8472

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