

# CASE STUDY



## PROJECT DETAILS

## Nichiha | Case Study

Berry Construction

### LAKE CHELAN RESIDENCE, CHELAN, WA

The family's dream house rests along the shores of Lake Chelan, a glittering 55-mile-long glacier-fed lake in eastern Washington surrounded by apple orchards, vineyards, pine forests and stunning homes. Beautiful surroundings call for beautiful protection—exactly why this house features Nichiha Sierra Premium Shake exterior siding.

Contractor John Berry, president of Berry Construction, built the vacation home for a local family that owns a number of nearby orchards. The recommendation to fully wrap the home in Nichiha's Sierra Premium Shake came directly from Berry. "We were somewhat familiar with the product, having seen it displayed at a local building materials dealer," he said. "We knew we wanted to build a shingle-style home; we also knew we wanted a cementitious product to provide fire resistance, durability and ease of maintenance. Sierra Premium Shake gave us all that."

Berry Construction is a commercial and residential builder known for its high-end residential projects, so this 4,500-square-foot home fell right in his wheelhouse. "We tore down an old cabin on the site and built this home from the ground up," Berry said. "We presented the Nichiha product as an option to the homeowner partly because we like to build nice things."

But there was much more behind Berry's recommendation. Since the area is subject to wildfires, fire resistance was extremely important. "Wildfires are prevalent in this area; we are seeing them more and more often," Berry said. "We had fires not far up the lake from this property last year, where houses and cabins burned all the way down to the water, so we are seeing more new home construction use cementitious siding products for fire protection. Between the landscaping and the building products, we're making more design decisions based on fire resistance; it's just another step to protect the home."

**Contractor**  
Berry Construction

**Location**  
Chelan, WA

**Product**  
Nichiha Sierra Premium  
Shake Shadow



### Challenge

Eastern Washington is in the heart of wildfire country. The homeowner needed a durable product that would help protect their dream home from brush fires and wind-driven embers.

### Solution

Nichiha Sierra Shake provides fire resistant protection according to ASTM E-119, which requires that the wall assembly successfully endure 60-minute fire exposure without developing excessive unexposed surface temperature and without allowing flaming on the unexposed side of the assembly.

### Results

Nichiha's fiber cement siding carries a Class 1(A) fire/flame spread rating, which is the highest level of fire protection. While no one can completely prevent a wildfire, the owners can rest assured that they've done all they can do to protect their home.

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Having a real wood look and feel in this beautiful area was also important to the homeowner. Berry said he presented Nichiha Sierra Shake as a siding option because it is a true 1/2-inch-thick product which provides better definition in terms of shadow lines. "We compared it to two other commonly-used cementitious siding products which are just 1/4-inch thick. We liked Nichiha's thickness because it provides more shadowing, making it a closer replica of cedar shingles, and the homeowner agreed."

Ease of maintenance was another selling feature. "The prefinished product provides a more durable, long-lasting finish with a warranty—something you just can't get with regular wood," Berry said. "Lake Chelan gets very hot and sunny in the summer, so siding finishes are subject to fading. The homeowners didn't want to have to re-stain or repaint every three to seven years like they would have with cedar. The Sierra Premium product finish has a 15-year warranty and the product itself is guaranteed for a lifetime."

Product stability was another benefit. In eastern Washington, a day can start off below freezing but by afternoon, the hot sun can raise temperatures to the 80s. These temperature extremes can cause other siding products to shrink or swell, creating gaps at the joints, whereas Nichiha Sierra Premium Shakes remain dimensionally stable in all types of weather. The resistance to warping and shrinkage was a product feature that Berry said will prove to be important over time. "We did the installation according to Nichiha's recommendations," he said. "In turn, we know that we can expect a quality product like this to offer high levels of performance."

This was Berry's first Nichiha installation, and he said things went well, "once we got the hang of it. We had to take extra time to plan the reveal, so we laid the product out first to establish our lines, and then installed it. Nichiha is heavier than cedar, so we learned to deal with that. All in all, though, it was a similar installation process to other pre-finished siding products."

Durability, finish coverage and fire protection were all important features to the homeowner, as well as the aesthetic look. "We did show the homeowner other siding options, but they chose Nichiha because of all these factors," said Berry. "I'm sure we will be using it again."

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— JOHN BERRY,  
President, Berry Construction

## About Nichiha USA:

Nichiha U.S.A., Inc., a subsidiary of Nichiha Corporation, was established 1998 and is headquartered in Norcross, Ga. Nichiha Corporation, an international leader in fiber cement technology for more than 35 years, has 13 plants worldwide and markets distinct patterns of fiber cement siding products in the U.S. In 2007, Nichiha opened its first U.S. manufacturing plant in Macon, Ga., responding to an increase in demand for fiber cement products in the Southeast market. For more information, call 1.86.NICHIHA1 or visit [nichiha.com](http://nichiha.com)

