

Cedar Products Care and Maintenance

The Gift of Durability

Western red cedar contains natural oils that acts as preservatives to help the wood resist insect infestation and decay. Cedar is also a dimensionally stable wood that lies flat and stays straight. Properly finished and maintained, Western Red Cedar ages gracefully and endures for many years.

Cedar is the preferred material for all outdoor applications that seek visual harmony with the landscape combined with stability and durability: from siding and patio decking to fences, planters, screens, shelters and garden furniture. Indoors, cedar's dimensional stability makes it perfectly suited to a variety of uses in high moisture areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and saunas. Cedar wood is a favorite with builders because it is lightweight but strong. It is easy to saw, nail and drill. Cedar wood has little or no messy pitch or resins.

Western Red Cedar should be preservative treated if intended for use in applications where it comes in contact with the ground.

Cedar is used for its long-lasting beauty.

No other softwood has the rich beauty or long-lasting performance of cedar wood.

Cedar is used for its dimensional stability.

Cedar wood acts like a sponge; when it absorbs moisture, it swells and when it loses moisture it shrinks. Cedar wood has thinner cell walls which shrink and swell less than other woods, so redwood is less likely to warp, split, cup or check.

Cedar is used for its natural durability.

Cedar wood heartwood is naturally resistant to decay and insects.

Use cedar because it is easy to paint, stain and glue.

No other softwood holds paints, stains and other coatings better than cedar wood. Cedar wood also bonds exceptionally well.

Do I need to finish this cedar wood product?

Though cedar wood will perform better than most other types of woods if left without a finish, it will look better and last longer if a protective finish is applied and maintained.

All of our cedar wood products are coated with natural linseed oil for protection. If you like the finished look of the linseed oil on our cedar wood products, you should apply a new layer to it once a year, if not the cedar wood will age to a silver-gray color when exposed to the outdoor weather elements.

What type of finish is more durable than linseed oil but still retains a natural appearance?

Our linseed oil is the most natural form of finish you can apply to cedar wood, but it will only retain the look for about a year or two.

The transparent and semi-transparent stains may last from three to four years. These finishes contain pigments which protect the wood from the degrading effects of solar radiation.

The best products contain water repellents, mildewcides and ultraviolet light blockers or absorbers.

When selecting a pigmented stain, CRA recommends testing finishes on a small area to be sure the

desired color effect is achieved. Transparent stains contain less pigment than semi-transparent stains and provide a more natural look. These finishes can be used on decks, fences, siding or other exterior projects.

Can I paint or stain over the linseed oil finish on this product to match my color?

Yes, you can paint or stain over the linseed oil on our products, but you should use oil base stain or paint for better results.

Are there any special precautions I should take when painting your cedar wood products?

We generally do not encourage people to paint on cedar wood, but if you decide to do so, please use special precautions.

Cedar wood takes and holds paint better than most woods. It is important, however, to select and correctly apply the right primer.

Use oil or alkyd-based primers or water-borne stain-blocking primers on redwood. These primers are available at your local paint centers and are formulated especially for cedar, redwood, and other types of wood with a high extractive content.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for application closely. The best finishes will not perform if they are applied incorrectly. A high-quality acrylic latex top coat provides the best durability.

How can I achieve an immediate weathered appearance with a low maintenance finish?

Bleaching or weathering stains are available from several manufacturers. These provide a uniform driftwood gray appearance in six to twelve months. Periodic applications of a clear water repellent with mildewcide are recommended after the weathered look is achieved. These finishes can be used on decks, fences, sidings or other exterior projects.