



WESTERN RED CEDAR

(Thuja plicata)

Western red cedar is a large softwood that grows in British Columbia and some of the nearby western states of the USA including Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho.

Western red cedar will remain dimensionally stable under most weather conditions and is not prone to shrinkage or swelling. Due to its versatility, it can be used for both internal and external applications such as cladding, linings, joinery, windows and roofing shingles. Natural preservatives provide resistance to fungus and insect attack, while its low density offers very good thermal insulation qualities. Western red cedar also delivers impressive acoustic properties.



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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

Heartwood reddish to pinkish brown, often with random streaks and bands of darker red/brown areas. Narrow sapwood is pale yellowish white, and isn't always sharply demarcated from the heartwood.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 490KG/m³ Seasoned: 350KG/m³

GRAIN

Has a straight grain and a medium to coarse texture.

STRENGTH

Unseasoned – S7 Seasoned – SD8

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

F5

HARDNESS (JANKA)

1.6kN (Seasoned) & 1.2kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

Very Low (2.3% tangential – 1.1% radial)

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

Highly Durable – Class 2 – Life expectancy 15-40 years

DURABILITY IN GROUND

Moderately Durable – Class 3 – 5 to 15 years

WORKING PROPERTIES

A durable yet soft timber, western red cedar has good workability. It cuts, machines and glues well and can also be painted, stained and polished. It also nails and screws well, however if timber is damp it is corrosive to iron, so hot-dipped galvanized nails/screws should be used where required.

Western red cedar can be brittle along the end grain and sharp cutters are recommended due to its soft nature. Precautions should be taken when sanding western red cedar as the sawdust can cause irritation for some people. It is not suitable for steam bending.

USES

Western red cedar is used for applications such as cladding, linings, joinery, windows, doors and roofing shingles. Natural preservatives provide resistance to fungus and insect attack, while its low density also provides good insulation qualities. It can be used in many types of weather conditions due to its natural durability.



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