

Western Red Cedar

v1.0

The largest of all North American Cedars, Western Red Cedar can be found along the West Coast of Northern America and Canada, predominantly in the regions of Washington State and British Columbia.

General Characteristics

PHYSICAL

Western Red Cedar is a softwood that is naturally resistant to insects and decay. The timber is light, soft and brittle. In terms of strength Western Red Cedar is good under compression, though poorer in other applications.

COLOR

The beauty of Western Red Cedar is enhanced by its pronounced natural color variances. Depending on the age of the timber, the juvenile materials tend to be a light orange/brown while the older growth material is a considerably darker, red/brown color. Stains and finishes can be used to either enhance or subdue these natural differences in color.

PATTERN

The timber possesses a fine straight grain that is usually uneven due to its prominent growth rings.

Relative Working Properties

MACHINING

With an average dry density of 350kg m³ Western Red Cedar is an excellent moulding timber that requires sharp cutters to avoid compressing soft early wood and causing finishing problems due to the early wood springing back.

FIXING

Nails and screws work well with Western Red Cedar; though these should be a non-corrosive variety to avoid any reaction with the timber. Western Red Cedar also provides a good base for gluing.

BENDING

Western Red Cedar is unsuitable for steam bending.

FINISHING

Western Red Cedar is an excellent timber for all coatings including stains, paints and enamels.

USES

Clear grade Western Red Cedar is an extremely versatile timber that can be used in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor applications.

