

WESTERN RED CEDAR

Type: Softwood

Source: North America and Canada

Western Red Cedar is a very popular choice for external timber cladding projects and offers a distinct and beautiful colour. Cedar is easy-to-work with, and its inherent design and colouration creates an aesthetically beautifully building finish. Its lightweight qualities, design and durability make it a popular choice for large scale projects.



Embodied Carbon (kgCO₂e / m²)* = 0 (11.12 Offset)

Ecova Clad Western Red Cedar Durability Classification

Common name	Natural Durability Class BSEN350:2:1994	Sapwood Treatability	Movement	Strength
Western Red Cedar Canadian	2	Resistant	Small	Low+

Durability Classifications

Natural durability class	Need for treatment/modification	Desired service life (years)	
		Occasionally wet	Frequently wet
1 (Very durable)	Suitable without treatment	>60	60
2 (Durable)	Suitable without treatment	60	30
3 (Moderately durable)	Suitable without treatment except for tall or exposed buildings	30	15 (untreated)
4 (Slightly durable)	Treatment required	15-30 years treated	15-30 years treated
5 (Not durable)	Treatment required	15-30 years treated	15-30 years treated

Treatments and Finishing

Easy to work with both hand and machine tools. Holds paint well. Stains, glues, and finishes well.

Moisture Movement

Small

Wood's moisture content will change relative to its surroundings. Different species have different degrees of movement and this must be accounted for in cladding design.

Good design and installation practice will help minimize the effects of moisture:

- Use eaves and overhangs to deflect rain - or flashing to protect the board tops
- Finish cladding at least 200mm from the ground or a horizontal surface. Where possible use a surface that diffuses rain, such as gravel
- Board widths should generally be 4 to 6 times board thickness (typically less than 150mm)
- Design detailing must include measures that minimise water penetration

Profiles

Wide choice of standard profiles (see Ecova Clad profiles guide)

Density (mean, Kg/m³):

350kg per m³ @ 12% moisture content

Recommended Fixings/Flashings

Stainless Steel / Non Ferrous Metals, Power Nailers should be avoided. The timber works easily with both hand and machine tools but is brittle by nature which means splintering can occur. Ensure cutters are sharpened to achieve a good finish.

Colour(s)

Reddish brown

Fire compliance

Exterior cladding - Timber cladding is suitable for buildings of 18m or lower. No combustible materials are permitted for cladding on residential buildings over 18m high.

Environmental

This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, and is reported by the IUCN as being a species of least concern.

*The embodied carbon calculation does not account for final delivery to site