

FSC® Western Red Cedar

Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is one of North America's great renewable resources. Slow growing and naturally durable, Western Red Cedar has one of the longest life spans of any North American softwood. It produces long lengths of timber with true, straight grain. It is free from pitch and its heartwood has natural resistance to decay. Being of low density gives it an insulation value superior to most other species.

Lightweight, easy to machine, easy to finish, possessing outstanding dimensional stability, Western Red Cedar is a preferred wood for nearly all purposes where attractive appearance or resistance to weather is important. Western Red cedar has long been known to be the premier wood product for exterior applications. We boast of a full line of FSC® certified cedar products to make any job successful.

Western Red Cedar's Durability:

Historically, native peoples of the Pacific coast prized cedar for its long lasting qualities and used wood and bark from cedar trees for most of their building needs. Evidence of cedar's durability are the many cedar relics still in good condition today.

Properly finished and maintained, cedar will deliver decades of trouble-free use. If your project calls for cedar to be exposed for prolonged periods to conditions where decay could be a factor, such as where the wood is in contact with the ground, cedar should be treated with proper wood preservatives.

How Does Western Red Cedar Machine?

With its straight grain and uniform texture, Western Red Cedar is among the easiest and most rewarding woods to work with. It takes a fine finish in all hand and machine operations, takes fasteners without splitting and is easily sawn and nailed. When working with Western Red Cedar, sharp cutters are recommended.

The Many Uses of FSC® Western Red Cedar

FSC® Western Red Cedar boasts of many applications and uses! But before we can examine those, it is important to note the two qualities that make it the perfect fit to satisfy many requirements: durability and ease of machining.

Properly finished and maintained, cedar will deliver decades of trouble-free use. Originating from a slow growing tree, cedar develops natural resistances to decay and the elements. Because of this, you should have tremendous confidence in its long-lasting presence as a deck, trellis, or planter. If your project calls for FSC® Cedar to be exposed for prolonged periods to conditions where decay could be a factor, such as where the wood is in contact with the ground, FSC® Cedar should be treated with proper wood preservatives. Otherwise, this durable project will require little maintenance and establish a long life for your application.

With its straight grain and uniform texture, FSC® Western Red Cedar is among the easiest and most rewarding woods to work with. It takes a fine finish in all hand and machine operations, takes fasteners without splitting, and is easily sawn and nailed. When working with FSC® Western Red Cedar, sharp cutters are recommended. However, unlike more exotic hardwoods, you won't be splitting nails or requiring heavy machinery when utilizing this wonderfully durable product.

Because of these two factors and the natural beauty and elegance of this wood, FSC® Western Red Cedar can be the ideal application for hundreds of projects! Some of which include the following:

- * Siding projects
- * Lattice
- * Fences
- * Gazebos
- * Planters

The best quality of this stately wood is that it has originated from a sustainable and sensibly-managed forest.

Grading FSC® Western Red Cedar

The Many Faces of FSC® Western Red Cedar:

Clear Heart

The highest grade. Includes only pieces with heartwood on the exposed face. Many pieces completely clear, others have minor imperfections that do not detract from their fine appearance.

Grading Rule Paragraph

NLGA 200a

WCLIB 102-b

A and Better

Permits somewhat more imperfections than Clear Heart but the grade is still restricted to pieces with excellent appearance.

Common specifications are A and Better and A and Better with a percentage of B Grade allowed.

Grading Rule Paragraph

NLGA 200b

WCLIB 102-c

B and Better

Permits slightly larger and more numerous characteristics than A grade but occasional pieces may require trimming to yield high grade pieces in shorter lengths. Most often supplied as a percentage with A grade.

Grading Rule Paragraph

NLGA 200c

WCLIB 102-d

C and Better

High quality lumber for use where appearance is important. In addition to interior and exterior trim, lumber of this grade is used for cabinetry, doors, windows and similar applications.

Grading Rule Paragraph

NLGA 202b, c

WCLIB 149-b, c

WWPA 10,11,12

D and Better

This grade permits larger and more numerous natural characteristics and is used where general utility is more important than appearance.

Grading Rule Paragraph

NLGA 202d

WCLIB 149-b, c

WWPA 10,13

-Courtesy of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association