

VALLEY CEDAR 2 Inc

PREFINISHING & MAINTENANCE

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Valley Cedar recommends premium stain designed for wood siding. Stains accent cedar grain and extend the life of your siding.

Valley Cedar 2 Inc strongly recommends finishing with either a premium semi-transparent stain or an oil-based primer and or acrylic solid colour topcoat. Two coats are generally the standard recommendation for all choices regardless. Stain fills the pores in the wood to keep moisture from penetrating, adding life to siding and providing an additional layer of protection to the home. The finish helps conceal unpredictable leaching of tannic acid, cedar's natural preservative and insect protection (but no finish can guarantee total control of extractive bleeding). Semi-Transparent finishes protect the cedar without hiding the natural grain and texture variations, while a solid colour provides low maintenance & long-lasting colour.

Modern stains make maintaining the natural colours of Western Red Cedar easier than ever before. For a natural wood appearance, semi-transparent stains are available that show the grain, texture and colour variations of real cedar shingles. Talk to your paint supply store to determine the best stain brands recommended for Western Red Cedar and the look you are trying to achieve.

If the intent is to achieve a naturally weathered colour often associated with aged cedar, Valley Cedar recommends use of a stain that anticipates the desired shade, such as light gray or driftwood colour. Stains also help reduce the natural weathering characteristics of untreated wood to shrink, split or curl.

Machine Factory Finishing:

Because of the uniform finish achieved in a factory-controlled environment, Machine Factory Finishing is one of the more popular options and recommended by Valley Cedar, especially when large quantities of panels are involved. Commercial factory finishing can offer significant savings in labour (comparing to dipping individual 18" R/R's) and ensures a more professional result. Valley Cedar can work with your distributor to obtain the services from an authorized Factory finisher.

DIY Pre-staining:

Pre-staining can be done on site with a brush, roller, spray or flooding methods. On site stainers must make certain the stain reaches in all keyways (spaces between shingles) and is spread evenly over the surface. Also brush stain on the backside lip of the cedar, but not the plywood. Excess stain should be removed.

Acclimatizing Shingles Before Staining Essential:

Cedar, like all wood species, absorbs and loses moisture, expanding and contracting with the local humidity. Valley Cedar dries shingles to approximately 12% or less moisture content before assembly. If pre-coating the panels on the job site, store them in a garage or other covered area, unwrap the pallets and allow the panels to acclimatize 24 hours (more if in a high humidity situation).

Use quality brands & follow instructions:

When buying any finish, choose a quality label recommended for Western Red Cedar and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Do not dilute or thin the product unless there are specific directions to do so for specific application methods (such as sprayers). Always "box" the cans, which means mix each half empty can with the next to maintain the same pigment density throughout the job.

Solid Paint:

Solid stains/paints are a better choice for longevity & Valley Cedar panels can be satisfactorily painted; It is recommended to use an oil-based primer first. Be aware, heavy pigmentation tends to hide the shingle's natural texture and colors. When using solid paints, the open keyway panel option should be selected to help retain the shingle style look.

Maintenance upkeep:

Maintenance cycles for staining vary greatly and depend on the type of stain that is applied, brand recommendations and the dwelling's general environment. Semi-Transparent stains often have maintenance cycles of 2-4 years while solid stains can last up to 7-9 years and the Acrylic topcoats applied by Factory Finishers can last 10-15 years between coatings. Wooden products perform differently based on exposure to the elements. Locations with high intensity sun exposure will require more frequent stain upkeep than other walls not so affected by the elements.

CAUTION: Valley Cedar does not recommend staining panels after installation. Climatic conditions after installation can cause delays of days, weeks or months which will reduce the adhesion and durability of coatings applied to Valley Cedar panels. Machine Factory Staining or pre-coating the panels results in the best finish.