

REAL CEDAR

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE



8 reasons why western red cedar is the right choice, especially in the rugged landscape of cottage country

WESTERN RED CEDAR LUMBER ASSOCIATION

REAL CEDAR



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THE PURE LOOK

“With other lumber types you often need to stain, seal or paint to protect against the elements. But not so with western red cedar,” says Colin and Justin. “That’s not to say you can’t stain or paint; cedar also looks great with this type of approach.”

However, the designers add that they like to relax at the cottage and thus, prefer to let their cedar age gracefully. “When you let it weather naturally, it is less likely to crack,” they add. “We can hardly wait to see it develop that silverygrey patina that is widely adored by purists such as ourselves.”



DON'T BE FOOLED REAL CEDAR IS LOW MAINTENANCE

“One of the biggest misconceptions about real cedar is that it requires a lot of upkeep,” says Mackie. “In fact, study after study shows that western red cedar is the best wood substrate to hold primer and paint.”

Cedar will hold a semi-transparent for two to four years; semi-solid for five years; and solid stains for six to eight years. However, many cottagers are choosing to let cedar age naturally because the grey patina is so stunning.

“Tradition” and “pure beauty” are the defining attributes of real cedar. Set against the treed rocky landscape in a cottage, in a deck or a pergola, “harmonious,” “refined” and “natural” might also come to mind. “There’s no doubt about it, we all have a deep affinity for real cedar,” says Paul Mackie a.k.a. Mr. Cedar, a recognized cedar expert and western area manager for the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association, based in Vancouver, B.C. But what many cedar lovers don’t realize is the extent of the building material’s durability, versatility and sustainability.



1 CEDAR SMELLS FANTASTIC

“Real cedar is one of the most satisfying aromas you’ll find, and not just when it’s been cut,” point out Colin and Justin. “The smell really lingers. It’s also worth noting that some composite materials can smell like extruded plastic and epoxy resin,” they add. Not exactly nature inspired.



2 CEDAR DECKING MAKES A POWERFUL STATEMENT

Western red cedar has the smallest environmental footprint of any other building material, says Mackie. Furthermore, it is both renewable and biodegradable. Even the transport of western red cedar creates a smaller footprint because the strong wood is so lightweight. “You could fill one truck with enough western red cedar to build a “20,000 sq. ft. wall. A full truck of fibre cement siding could only cover 8,000 sq. ft. of wall,” says Mackie.

“It’s such a resilient timber... Cedar beautifully complements the surroundings and grandeur of cottage country”

“We adore cedar, we always have,” say design duo Colin and Justin of Colin and Justin’s Cabin Pressure on Cottage Life TV. “It’s such a resilient timber, and one that performs extremely well outdoors. It’s durable, smooth and strong, although surprising lightweight. What’s more, it beautifully complements the surroundings and grandeur of cottage country.” Here, we count yet more ways that real cedar is the right choice for building material. In no particular order...



3 CEDAR IS FUNCTIONALLY VERSATILE

Western red cedar is an incredibly strong, yet lightweight material, which means it can be cut easily and shaped into whichever application is required, for example curved railings. It also lies flat and straight, so it is easy to fit in place—ideal for DIY projects.



4 CEDAR IS AESTHETICALLY VERSATILE

Because of western red cedar’s superbly rich tonal properties it can blend seamlessly with outdoor sanctuaries, embolden traditional home decor or provoke cutting-edge architectures. You can choose a knotty version for a rustic look, or clear cedar for a fresh look. Western red cedar is pitch and resinfree, which means it’s ideal for accepting and holding a wide range of beautiful finishes.

5 CEDAR LOOKS REAL BECAUSE IT IS REAL

No other building material can recreate the warmth and beauty of cedar, especially when it comes to siding. Plus, it’s hard to boast about synthetic materials.



6 CEDAR IS DURABLE

Western red cedar is naturally resistant to rot, decay and insect attacks. If you’re sizing up other options, keep in mind composites can’t fend off mildew, or be restored after inevitable fading from the sun’s UV rays.



7 CEDAR IS SUSTAINABLE

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8 CEDAR IS THE ULTIMATE CUSTOMIZABLE WOOD

Real cedar also comes in a wide range of lumber dimensions, surface textures and grades, adds Mackie. “Not only is it easy to saw and glue, cedar comes in certain sizes needed for outdoor structures that aren’t readily available in other building materials.”



**Did you know
that cedar boasts
a 'net carbon sink'?**

That means it actually
removes greenhouse
gases from the
atmosphere whereas
other building materials
emit them.



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