

LET *Nature*  
TAKE  
ITS COURSE

To  
PRESERVE  
*and*  
PROTECT

*Staining*  
POWER

MAINTAIN  
THE  
*Stain*

FIVE  
*Ws*  
OF  
WRCLA

**Q:** What WRC deck finish requires the least amount of maintenance?

**A:** Can you say no finish?! That's right – without finish, WRC decks weather to a beautiful silvery grey patina. Plus, our wood is naturally resistant to rot and decay, which means no man-made additives necessary. So you can just let Mother Nature do her thing and enjoy your deck in all its natural beauty.

**Q:** What if I want to maintain the original colour of my deck and keep it from going grey?

**A:** There are many age-defying water-based and oil-based formulations of semi-transparent stains available that can maintain your original cedar colour. Ideally, you want to apply the finish of your choice to all six sides of your wood before installing it... or better yet, opt for factory applied finishes. That way, you can rest easy knowing your Real Cedar was treated by pros. But hey, if you're an ambitious DIY improver who likes to take more of a hands-on approach, please see the RealCedar.com outdoor "Finishing Tips" section for a comprehensive maintenance guide.

**Q:** What is the expected lifespan of a semi-transparent stain?

**A:** Exposure to UV rays and rain are the primary reasons stains break down. With that in mind, siding stains will generally last a full 3-5 years. But because decks get hit with even more direct sunlight and precipitation than siding, expect deck stains to last on the short side of 3-5 years. Of course, a little scuff sanding before installation to enhance stain penetration will go a long way to prolong your product's service life. For more info on maximizing your stain, please refer to our "How to Finish Western Red Cedar" publication.

**Q:** How can we maximize the performance of a semi-transparent stain on a deck application?

**A:** Scuff sanding deck boards with 60-80 grit sandpaper prior to installation will allow the stain to penetrate the wood better. The first coat of stain should be applied to all 6 sides of deck boards, prior to installation. Any moisture that wicks into the installed deck can compromise the finish. So Real Cedar design and construction practices should be followed to ensure good drainage. For more info, please see our RealCedar.com decking "Care & Maintenance" section.

**REAL CEDAR** Just the Facts, ma'am

- WHAT** Western Red Cedar Lumber Association
- WHO** More than 200 quality Western Red Cedar Producers, Certified Distributors and qualified Premium Retailers
- WHERE** We source our products from the most sustainably managed forests in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho
- WHEN** 1954 to present
- WHY** To give wood-loving consumers the lowdown on WRCLA products, their specification and proper use.

Visit [RealCedar.com](http://RealCedar.com) today for publications, plans, specifying guides, training, inspiration, instructions and more. Sign up to receive our email newsletter and if you have any questions or are looking to specify Cedar for your next project please call our Western Red Cedar Specialist at: **1-866-778-9096**



[realcedar.com](http://realcedar.com)

PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF



# BREAKDOWN OF Benefits

# Beautiful INSIDE & OUT

# Grey MATTERS

# DECKING Loving CARE

# REGIONAL Retailers

## Q: What makes Western Red Cedar so special?

**A:** For starters, this highly revered, durable wood is naturally resistant to rot, decay and insect attacks, which means anything you build with it, will last longer and require less maintenance. It's also cool underfoot and smells great. But wait! There's more:

**BEAUTY** – Imbued with decidedly crisp, yet superbly rich, tonal properties, there really is no substitute for the natural beauty of Real Cedar.

**VERSATILITY** – Western Red Cedar is pitch and resin-free. Which means it's ideal for accepting and holding a wide range of beautiful finishes.

**SUSTAINABILITY** – Independent studies prove that when it comes to environmental performance, natural wood is superior to synthetic products in every way.

## Q: How should interior panelling be finished and how should exterior siding be finished? Prepare to prep!

**A:** **Indoor Panelling:** For optimal results, Real Cedar needs to acclimatize to the humidity conditions of your indoor space before installation. This will enable the cedar to achieve equilibrium moisture content with its surroundings. That is important because Western Red Cedar is a natural material and as such tends to react to the humidity content of a new environment. Typically speaking, dry cedar will take up to 14 days to acclimatize to most interior environments.

**Outdoor Projects:** Good surface preparation practices are essential to achieve a durable, long-lasting exterior finish. And since no two finishing types are alike, we suggest checking out our RealCedar.com siding "Finishing" section for a comprehensive list of guidelines.

## Q: Is it better to let Cedar go grey and if so, how do you maintain it?

**A:** That totally depends on visual preference. Some deck owners love the way Western Red Cedar weathers to a naturally beautiful silver-grey patina. Others prefer the original hue of new Western Red Cedar and then there are those who'd rather tint their decks to another color all together... so to answer your question, to each his own, as they say. As for the maintenance factor, the only upkeep grey decks require is the occasional cleaning, which means less time maintaining your outdoor living space and more time **enjoying** your outdoor living space.

**BONUS:** Letting your deck go grey is the most environmentally sound choice.

## Q: How do you restore a cedar deck to its former glory?

**A:** Trust us, this is something you won't have to worry about for a very looong time. That's because when a Western Red Cedar deck is properly installed and cared for, it will last for decades. For information on finishing or refinishing your cedar deck refer to our RealCedar.com Decking "Restoration" section.

## Q: Where can Western Red Cedar products be purchased locally?

**A:** Who has time to search all over town for the right products? Time is precious and gas is expensive, so we've made it easy for you. Just log onto RealCedar.com and visit our "Where to Buy" section to find a reputable Real Cedar retailer near you. And if you can't find what you're looking for, call 1-866-778-9096 and one of our technical reps will help you source the right WRCLA product for your project.

Visit [RealCedar.com](http://RealCedar.com) today for publications, plans, specifying guides, training, inspiration, instructions and more. Sign up to receive our email newsletter and if you have any questions or are looking to specify Cedar for your next project please call our Western Red Cedar Specialist at: **1-866-778-9096**

PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF



[realcedar.com](http://realcedar.com)