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.

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 silvery grey patina that is widely adored by purists such as ourselves.”

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

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“Traditional” and “pure beauty” are the
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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
sidings could only cover
8,000 sq. ft. of wall,”
says Mackie.

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
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cover 8,000 sq. ft. of wall,” says Mackie.

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.”

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