

Western Red Cedar (imported)



Thuja Plicata
Also known as: Western Red
Cedar

1. General Information

• **Distribution**

A tree of the northern Rocky Mountains and Pacific North-west; its full range extends from Alaska southwards to California, and eastwards along many of the interior ranges of British Columbia, northern Washington, Idaho and Montana to the western slope of the continental divide.

• **Environmental**

Not listed in CITES. Believed available from well-managed sources. Check certification status with suppliers.

• **The Timber**

The sapwood is narrow and white in colour, and the heartwood is reddish-brown. When freshly felled, the heartwood often displays a marked variation in colour; that from the centre of the log may be a dark chocolate-brown changing to salmon pink nearer the sapwood, or the wood may be variegated with alternate dark and light zones. After conventional high temperature kiln drying, the wood assumes a uniform reddish-brown tone, but after long exposure to weather the colour is lost, and the wood becomes silver-grey. This weathered appearance is sometimes purposely sought by architects, but a further peculiarity of the wood is its ability to take and hold stain of the finest tint without discolouration. The wood is non-resinous, straight-grained, somewhat coarse-textured and exhibits a fairly prominent growth-ring figure. It is soft, rather brittle, aromatic, especially when wet and light in weight, about 390 kg/m³ when dried.

• **The Tree**

The largest of the so-called cedars, it grows to a height of 45m to 75m with a diameter of 1m to 2.5m.

• **Wood type**

Softwood

2. Timber Properties

• **Chemical properties**

Fine dust may be irritant. An acidic timber which may corrode metals under damp conditions and cause iron staining. Natural tannins can be released.

• **Coating**

A wide range of coatings can be applied, subject to appropriate profile design, sound preparation and application of the coating in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Due to its excellent stability will offer excellent service. Tannin stain can occasionally appear underneath coating. Must be stored and protected correctly on site.

• **Colour**

Reddish brown (Ages to silver grey if left unprotected)

• **Density**

390 kg/m³ (Kiln Dried)

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- **Drying**

Thin sizes dry readily with little degrade, but the timber generally tends to hold its moisture at the centre and care is needed with thick stock to avoid internal honey-combing and collapse. The timber holds its position well after drying with practically no tendency to warp and check. While movement due to shrinking and swelling in changing atmospheres is small.

- **Durability**

Durable

- **Fixings**

All species – Stainless Steel fixings are recommended and Marine grade may be required in close proximity of the sea. Round head ring annular nails are preferred or suitable screws. Please ensure fixing and fixing system is appropriate to species.

- **Fire Retardant**

This species can be treated for Internal and External (leach resistant) use. Can achieve both Euro Class 'B' & 'C' classifications, by a pressure-impregnation process. This can lead to an increase in brittleness and issues such as end split and distortion, which can increase wastage. This means that an increase in actual length of pieces ordered and/or overall volume may be appropriate.

The pressure impregnation process can lead to increased brittleness and issues such as end split face checks and dimensional distortion. These are characteristics of the treatment process, will potentially increase site wastage and means that an increase in actual length of pieces ordered and/or overall volume may be appropriate.

- **Lengths**

Can be supplied from 910mm to 6.1m in increments of 305mm but most available and cost effective lengths are 1.22m to 3.05m. Please check with supplier for current availability.

- **Movement**

Small

- **Price**

Medium

- **Sawn Sections**

(Machined profiles will be thinner/narrower)

22 x 50 / 75 / 100 / 150 / 200 / 250 / 300

25 x 50 / 75 / 100 / 150 / 200 / 250 / 300

50 x 50 / 75 / 100 / 150 / 200 / 250 / 300

75 x 75 / 100 / 150 / 200 / 250 / 300

100 x 100 / 150 / 200 / 250 / 300

- **Strength**

Its light weight and soft timber contributes to low strength properties and compared with European redwood (*Pinus sylvestris*) it is some 20 to 30 per cent inferior in bending strength, and about 15 percent less stiff.

- **Texture**

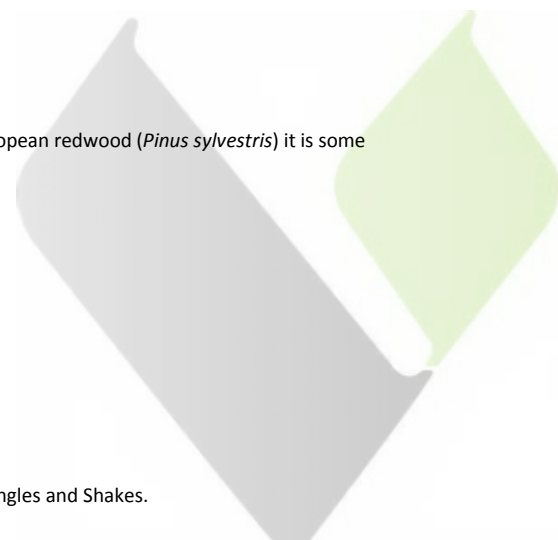
Coarse

- **Treatability**

Western Red Cedar can be treated.

- **Uses**

Joinery, Cladding (exterior & interior), Decking, Louvres / Brise soleil Roofing and Walling Shingles and Shakes.



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- **Working qualities**

Good - The timber works easily with both hand and machine tools, but is brittle in nature, which can cause splintering during some operations, and its soft character, which can lead to chip-bruising, usually means that care is needed in order to obtain the best results during planing and moulding. Good finish can be obtained, but cutters must be kept sharpened.

3. Site Expectations – Natural Characteristics

All timber materials **MUST** be stored in accordance with good site practice, please refer to our [Storing of Timber document](#).

Relatively knot free, though grades below the top grade of **No2 Clear & Better ONLY**, can have larger, more frequent, soft or loose knots.

Cedar is a stable material and generally machines very well but it is a soft material and the following can occur, end split, furring of grain, occasional broken tongue/groove.

Please ensure that you order sufficient materials in length and volume to ensure that you can complete your project.

