

Western Red Cedar: Select & Primary Grade

Timber Grade:

Select & primary grade is also sold under other headings including:

- Mixed/Blended – No.2 Clear
- No.2 Clear & Better

This is an imported North American product, known for its quality and durability. It should not be confused with the cheaper homegrown equivalent which is relatively low grade and less durable.

Select & Primary grade Western Red Cedar is a blended grade that consists of mainly number 2 grade mixed with 15-20% number 4 grade.

Grades lower than select & primary may be cheaper but will increase site wastage and will create short lengths if characteristic knots and blemishes need to be removed.

Timber Characteristics:

Western Red Cedar is non-resinous, straight grained, course textured and exhibits a fairly prominent growth ring figure. It is soft, brittle, aromatic - especially when wet and light in weight.

The timber is stable after drying with almost no tendency to warp, small splits/checks may occur during drying. Movement caused by shrinking and swelling in changing weather is minimal.

The Sapwood of Western Red Cedar is narrow and cream/white in colour, the heartwood often displays a marked variation in colour. Boards from the centre of the log may be a dark chocolate-brown, changing to salmon pink nearer the sapwood, the timber may be variegated with alternate dark and light zones.

After drying and exposure to the elements the red / pink tones are lost and the timber weathers down to a silver-grey colour.

The eventual colour can depend upon its environment. The weathered appearance is often purposely sought after.

Select & Primary grade may include frequent and larger knots, potentially soft, dead and loose knots, it may also have some face splits, wane, raised grain, resin pockets and sapwood. There could be bruising and some physical damage. The timber may be air-dried or green (freshly cut).

The natural characteristics of the Select & Primary grade are not deemed to be defects. We advise that when calculating quantities of Cedar cladding you should include an allowance for waste. The amount of waste will vary depending on how much character you wish to remove and whether you are happy to join shorter lengths.

The way that Western Red Cedar cladding is sold:

W.R.C. cladding is sourced as a mixed length spec. and as a blended grade. Our stock is sold in the same way so that the specification and grade remain consistent.

A standard order of W.R.C. would include a mixture of all available lengths and grades.

Lengths:

Board lengths are typically 1.83m and longer as arising, we regularly have lengths available up to 4.88m and occasionally up to 6.1m.

A normal order would be calculated based on m² and would include a mixture of all available lengths to make up the meterage.

If you require specific lengths, this may be possible but is subject to availability and surcharge. If your required lengths are available, it isn't guaranteed that they will be knot / defect free.

Bespoke Orders:

We are able to offer bespoke profiles, lengths and grades; subject to availability and possible surcharges – depending on your requirement.

Quantities should be accurately calculated as small subsidiary orders are subject to machine setting and carriage charges. We are not able to accept returns of bespoke products.