

## A Guide To Finishing Western Red Cedar

### **Congratulations on choosing the Premier Panel™.**

**The Premier Panel™ is a major breakthrough in shingle panel design and technology. The Premier Panel™ features an advanced two-ply “Cedar on Cedar” shingle panel design. 100% Real Wood – 100% Real Cedar. There is no substitute!**

### **Western Red Cedar has the best finishing retention features.**

Among all the softwood species, Western Red Cedar is considered to have the very best finishing retention features. The most important characteristics of Western Red Cedar that contribute to its exceptional ability to accept and retain many different types of finishes are its outstanding dimensional stability, fine texture, a pattern of growth that results in narrow bands of summerwood, and freedom from pitch and resin.

The choice of an exterior wood finish for cedar depends upon the desired appearance and the degree of protection required. Conversely, the amount of protection provided to the wood depends on the type of finish selected. Finished wood is a combination of two widely different materials and the properties of both must be considered to achieve the most durable wood-finish system. Note, however, that with all types of finishes, the manufacturer's recommendations should be followed. Cedar's excellent finishing characteristics cannot compensate for products that are unsuitable, of inferior quality, or improperly applied. Finishes perform best when the coating is applied to all surfaces (face, back, edges and ends) prior to installation.

### **Moisture – The most important factor impacting the performance of finish.**

The moisture content of wood at the time of construction and during the structure's lifetime is the most important factor impacting upon the performance of the finish. Like all wood species, Cedar expands and contracts with humidity. Therefore, prior to applying finish, it is best for the panels to be covered and left in the open dry air for 3-5 days so they can acclimate to the local humidity. This will allow the panels to expand and shrink prior to applying the finish, thus allowing the exposed surfaces to retain and absorb the finish more readily and evenly.

All Premier Panel™ components are kiln dried in state-of-the-art dry kilns to exacting specifications. Premier dries their shingle

panels to approximately 10-14% moisture content allowing the panels to acclimate to the local humidity in just a few days.

Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends finishing the Premier Panel™ prior to installation in the field. If finishing is applied to the Premier Panel™ after installation in the field, it should be done within two weeks of application and prior to exposure to any moisture.

### **Oil Based Stains**

Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends finishing the Premier Panel™ with deep penetrating premium oil based stains that are water repellent and mildew resistant. Semi-transparent, semi-solid and bleaching oils are recommended depending on the customer's preference.

Semi-transparent oil based stains are lightly pigmented to enhance the texture of the wood without concealing the wood grain while providing some protection against ultraviolet rays. Semi-solid oil based stains contain more pigment than semi-transparent stains for added protection against ultraviolet rays. Even though semi-solid oil based stains provide greater opacity, they still highlight the natural texture of wood and provide a deep penetrating, flat finish.

### **Cedar should not be left to weather.**

Even though cedar weathers over time to an attractive silver-gray that has a certain architectural appeal, research chemists and wood scientists strongly recommend that some form of protective finish is applied to prevent surface degradation. Weathered surfaces provide a poor substrate for finishes. Even a few weeks of exposure will decrease cedar's ability to hold a finish. Therefore, Premier recommends using deep penetrating bleaching oils or weathering oil based stains for those looking for the “weathered” look. Bleaching oils are uniquely formulated and lightly pigmented to beautify and protect the wood while accelerating the natural weathering process.

Caution: Although Western Red Cedar is a durable species,



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### continued

cedar should not be left unfinished as some manufacturers suggest. As noted above, research chemists and wood scientists strongly recommend that some form of protective finish is applied to prevent surface degradation.

### Solid-Color Oil Based Stains

Solid-color oil based stains can also be applied to the Premier Panel.™ Solid-color oil based stains are heavily pigmented in opaque color that will conceal the wood grain, yet still allow the wood texture to show through. Solid-color oil based stains are available in a wide array of colors and provide a flat, opaque finish. Water repellent and mildew resistant, solid-color oil based stains provide a durable finish that helps to keep the moisture out -- minimizing wood warping and checking. Solid-color oil based stains provide long lasting protection.

### Paints

Latex, acrylic and oil based paints can also be applied to the Premier Panel.™ Paints provide the most surface protection against weathering while providing color and concealing some of the wood's characteristics. In the event paint is the finish of choice, Premier Forest Products, Inc. recommends first applying an oil based stain-blocking primer on all surfaces (face, back, edges and ends) which will offer the best shield against discoloration by water-soluble extractives. This should be followed by applying a 100% acrylic latex-based top coat. Latex paint, particularly 100% acrylic formulations, remain more flexible with age and are better able to accommodate dimensional changes by stretching and shrinking with the wood.

### Factory Finishing

Factory finishing is available for the Premier Panel™ through Weiss Cascade in Centralia, Washington. Visit our website or call for more information.

### Member Associations & Quality Assurance

Established in 1967, Premier Forest Products Inc. is a member of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association, Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau, North America Wholesale Lumber Association, Forest Products Society and Temperate Forest Foundation. Premier Forest Products Inc. is also a member of the International Code Council a professional association dedicated to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public by making buildings safer.

### For More Information:

Visit [www.PremierForestProducts.com](http://www.PremierForestProducts.com) for more information on the Premier Panel™.

### Other Technical Bulletins

Features and Benefits of the Premier Panel™  
Technical Bulletin #101

Proper Fasteners for Western Red Cedar  
Technical Bulletin #102

Installation Instructions for the Premier Panel™  
Technical Bulletin #104

Premier Panel™ Accessories  
Technical Bulletin #105

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Premier Forest Products, Inc. is also a member of the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau (CSSB). The CSSB also provided information for this technical bulletin.

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*Wrap Your Dreams® in*



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