

Canadian Cedar Shingles

Are you one of the many familiar with Western Red Cedar from Canada but Not Eastern White Cedar? If so read On!

Neither "Red" nor "White" are very accurate descriptive but we will try to do better; The shingles are a lot more similar than they are different:

Standards for both EWC and WRC are managed but CSA and approved by the Standards council of Canada. A brief comparison of elements from those two standards is shown below. The parameters are VERY similar.

Products made from Western Red Cedar (WRC) are grown in and around British Columbia and The Eastern White Cedar (EWC) is grown in and around Quebec. If you are in Europe, WRC has 5000km more to travel by rail or 10 000km further to travel by boat to reach you.

Canadian Cedar has a well deserved reputation for durability. **Fortintek** (Canada's National Wood Products Institute) published a paper in 2006 entitled Comparative Durability of Canada's "Cedar" Species. You can read the results that find the species equally durable by following links to [page 1](#) and [page 2](#).

Visually, unweathered WRC ranges from light mid brown to a pinkish hue. EWC ranges from light to light-mid brown. There is a significant difference in weathering with EWC weathering to a silver grey while WRC weathers to varying degrees of what most would call black. You can see EWC weathering in this [Black or White Document](#). *When "treated" (both usually ACQ pressure treated) shingles start off greenish brown with the WRC more brown. They will both weather to a light brown and on to grey (WRC then on to black). Learn more about ACQ treatment from one of Europe's leading suppliers [here](#).*

Comparison of EWC and WRC 400mm (16") shingle standard elements

Product	Easten White Cedar	Western Red Cedar
Standards Body	Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards are developed through a consensus standards development process approved by the Standards Council of Canada.	
CSA Standard	O118.2-08	0118.1-08
Date Created	2008	2008
Product Name	Grade A	No. 1
Label Colour	BLUE	BLUE
Defects Knots etc.	not permitted	not permitted
Wood	100% heartwood	100% heartwood
Decay	not permitted	not permitted
Width (minimum)	76mm (3")	76mm (3")
Thickness (5 shingles)	50mm (2")	50mm (2")
bundle packaging	720 running inches	695 running inches
	1,8288 running meters	1,765 running meters
recommended exposure for steeper roofs >4/12 slope	5"	5"
Diagonal Grain (max)	May contain diagonal grain when the grain diverges or slants 25 mm (1 in) or less in 100 mm (4 in) of length, measured from the butt.	Diagonal grain in 300 mm (12 in) of length measured from the butt shall be considered a defect when the grain diverges or slants 50 mm (2 in) or more in 300 mm (12 in) of length measured from the butt.