



# HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR CEDAR SHINGLE SIDING? BASIC PRINCIPLES TO PRESERVE ITS BEAUTY

## INTRODUCTION

You chose cedar shingle because you know it is a genuine, timeless and distinctive material. That is why you need to take care of it. The performance and required maintenance may depend on several factors such as the finish, the exposure to the elements, the proximity of vegetation or the ocean, or even the geographical location.

In this document, we've put together the main recommendations for protecting your investment and enjoying your cedar shingles for decades. You'll be surprised to know that it's easier than you think.

## WHEN SHOULD YOU MAINTAIN YOUR CEDAR SHINGLE SIDING?

Like all exterior siding, dirt or mold accumulation can occur on the surface of your cedar shingles. It is recommended to check the condition of your siding annually to avoid any excessive accumulation of these substances and to clean them, if necessary.

## HOW TO CLEAN WITHOUT DAMAGING?

Here are some basic rules to follow carefully:

### LITTLE TO NO DIRT ACCUMULATION



Clean up with a garden hose. This should be enough to remove the dirt.

### STUBBORN DIRT ACCUMULATION



Gently scrub with a soft bristle brush. If needed, you can use a mild, non-abrasive, water-diluted detergent such as laundry detergent. Then rinse with a garden hose.

### MOLD AND MILDEW ACCUMULATION



Clean with a commercial fungicides using a soft bristle brush.

You can also use a 4: 1 mixture of water and bleach.

Make sure to rinse thoroughly afterwards, regardless of the product used.

It is a good idea to start with a test on a small non-visible area.



TIPS

Avoid letting trees or shrubs growing too close to your siding, they will create shade and humidity, a perfect environment for mold and mildew.

**Do not hesitate to contact us at 1-888-594-1112 if in doubt.**

## IMPORTANT

To prevent water infiltration behind the shingles, always direct the water stream downwards.  
We do not recommend using a pressure washer to clean your shingles.

## WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS AN APPEARANCE OF HEAVY MOLD OR ROT?

The cedar tannins provide a natural protection against fungal deterioration. This is why it's abnormal to see green moss and especially rot appear on your shingles.

If this happens, it is very likely that you have an improper installation issue (eg contact with the ground, with accumulated water or a lack of ventilation).

If you discover such an issue, you must find the source and fix it immediately. Help from your installer is suggested.

## WHAT TO DO WITH NATURALLY AGED SHINGLES?

White cedar shingles are best known for their seaside look and famous silvery-gray color. Depending on where they are installed, natural shingles will age differently.

If you want to reverse time and get that freshly installed look you can simply clean them with a mixture of 4 ounces of trisodium phosphate (TSP), 1 quart of bleach and 3 liters of water. Rinse your shingle beforehand and apply the solution. Leave on for 15 to 20 minutes, scrubbing the dirt with a brush and rinse with a steady stream of water under 500 psi. If mold or mildew remains on the surface, mix 4 ounces of oxalic acid with 1 gallon of hot water. Spray the stains, let sit for 15 minutes and rinse thoroughly. The result? The look of a freshly sawn shingle.

Afterwards many options are available. You can let them age naturally again or stain them using one of the options listed below.

## WHEN AND HOW TO RE-STAIN YOUR CEDAR SHINGLES?

Good news! With genuine cedar shingles, changing the color of your home, or just refreshing it, is less expensive and easier than completely changing your home's siding.

The use of a long-haired brush is recommended, but it is also possible to use a paint sprayer.

### PREPARATION AND APPLICATION:

- » Before re-staining, the surface must be cleaned (See the section: *How can you clean without damaging?*). Let it dry for at least 2 days.
- » To re-stain, choose a period without rain (before and after the work) when the temperature is between 50°F (10°C) and 86°F (30°C). Avoid application in direct sunlight.
- » Always test on a small area before completing each step.
- » Stir the stain with a wooden stick before and during application.

### SOLID FINISH

Solid finishes are very resistant to the elements. You should not have to re-stain your siding for several years.

However, styles and trends are constantly changing, and the color chosen years before may be outdated or faded<sup>1</sup>. If you want to refresh or change it, you will need to re-apply a new coat of 100% acrylic stain of your choice. The SBC finish warranty will be replaced by the one from the stain manufacturer you choose.

Contact us at 1-888 594-1112 for more details.



<sup>1</sup> FADING: This is a natural phenomenon in reaction to sunlight and wind and is not covered by our warranty.

# WHEN AND HOW TO RE-STAIN YOUR CEDAR SHINGLES?

## WEATHERING AGENTS

These agents are especially formulated to speed up the natural weathering process of cedar shingles. The weathering agents applied in the factory will gradually disappear and the natural graying of the cedar will take over. Therefore, it is not necessary to apply new coats in the following years.

If you still want to do this, it is best to wait a minimum of 2 years after installation to avoid a thick film on the surface.

## HERE'S HOW TO PROCEED:

### STEP 1

#### PREPARE YOUR SURFACE: 2 OPTIONS

##### By sanding:

Sand your surface using a fairly rough 80 to 120-grit sandpaper.

##### Using chemicals:

Mix 4 ounces of trisodium phosphate (TSP), 1 quart of bleach and 3 liters of water. Rinse your shingle beforehand and apply the solution. Leave it on for 15 to 20 minutes, scrubbing the dirt with a brush and rinse with a steady stream of water not exceeding 500 psi. Let dry for 2 days without rain. If mold remains on the surface, mix 4 ounces of oxalic acid with 1 gallon of hot water. Spray the stains, let sit for 15 minutes and rinse thoroughly. Let dry for 2 more days.

### STEP 2

#### RE-APPLY

Since these products are highly specialized, it is best to contact us at 1-888 594-1112 and let us guide you to the correct product to use. Remember, this is a treatment to accelerate aging, not a finish. You should avoid applying too much product. A very thin layer will be enough.

## SEMI-TRANSPARENT FINISH

The semi-transparent finishes show off the wood grain thus their protection against the sun's UV rays is limited. Depending on the color, the exposure and the geographic locations, you can plan to re-stain your siding between 3 to 5 years after installation. To do this, use a 100% acrylic stain. Note that when you add a coat of stain to a semi-transparent, it can almost become solid.

## NATURALTONE CEDAR FINISH

The *Naturaltone Cedar* finish is an oil-based toner that penetrates wood while leaving a light surface protection. Since it is almost translucent, it requires more maintenance. To maintain its shine, you will likely need to reapply a coat of Olympic / Maximum® Oil Stain 57503 after 1 or 2 years. Afterwards, you can lengthen the time between layers as it will build up protection every time.

## WELL DONE!

Now you know how to maintain your cedar shingle siding. If in doubt, contact our technical team at 1-888 594-1112.