

**Please Note: ONLY experienced professionals who follow proper safety and workmanship practices should implement the information contained herein.**

### Certi-label Cedar Is Naturally Long-Lasting

Cedar shakes and shingles have been used for hundreds of years. They have proven their longevity in actual weather conditions, in all types of climates. Cedar shakes and shingles contain oils that make them naturally decay resistant. Their insulative qualities, aesthetic appeal, and wind & impact resistance make Certi-label cedar shakes and shingles the natural choice for your roofing and siding material.

### Longevity Starts With A Quality Manufacturer

Not all cedar products are alike. Purchasing cedar products with the "Certi" brand name on the bundle label guarantees you that the mill undergoes inspections by an independent third party inspection agency. Only Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau member mills are allowed to label their products with the Certi-label. Each member mill's bundles will have the distinctive Certi-label tucked under the bundle strap. Locating Certi-label products is as close as your nearest computer or telephone. Contact the Cedar Bureau for more information.

### Longevity Continues With A Quality Installation

Roof construction plays a major role in determining the lifespan of cedar roofs. Proper design is absolutely critical to ensure long-term roof integrity. Proper installation will help maximize the life of cedar products. Cedar Bureau Approved Installers have met membership criteria and continue to prove themselves with each job they complete. Approved Installers offer a workmanship guarantee, references, and are the only contractors authorized to give homeowners the warranty administered by the Cedar Bureau. Locating Approved Installers is as close as your nearest computer or telephone. Contact the Cedar Bureau for the names of members in your area.

Experienced care and maintenance professionals can make recommendations based on:

- Zinc or copper strips nailed at the ridge cap can be effective to control moss. Reaction between rain and the zinc or copper forms a mild solution that is carried down sections of the roof. The optional use of these strips can be eliminated if you are using Certi-Last products.
- Overhanging branches should be kept trimmed away from the roof. This will prevent leaves, small branches and other debris from building up and keeping the roof wet.
- Gutters and downspouts need to be cleaned regularly, usually in the spring and fall. Downspouts (leaders) should run directly to the ground or to another gutter below. Never let a downspout drain directly onto a lower roof surface.
- Cedar needs to breathe, and therefore needs to be kept clean. Do not allow leaves, branches or other debris to build up on the roof. Both surface areas and keyways (spaces between shakes and shingles) need to be kept clear.
- Ensure ventilation is available, year round. Areas with louvers, ridge vents, roof vents, and soffit vents need to be kept clear and never blocked off. Adequate ventilation ensures heat and moisture do not build up in the attic area. Adequate ventilation also prevents water from accumulating at the bottom of the roof and then freezing (ice damming).

### Certi-label Cedar Is Also Available With Pressure-Impregnated Treatment Process

For even longer life span, where climate is a factor, Cedar Bureau members offer Certi-Last preservative-treated shakes and shingles. These products are ideal for areas of high humidity.

Certi-Last products are cedar shakes and shingles that are factory pressure-treated by quality treaters who are members of the Cedar Bureau. Contact the treatment company for warranty details.

Pressure-treated Certi-Guard or Certi-Last products should not receive after-market roof treatments without written permission from the manufacturer of such products.

### A Word About Topical Treatments For Installed Roofs

There are hundreds of companies offering topical roof spraying and cleaning services. The Cedar Bureau has conducted an in-depth study of care and maintenance systems, and provides the following summary:

- Avoid the fly-by-night operation that has no permanent office, no workmanship guarantee, and no local references. Fly-by-night operations often gouge consumers for thousands of dollars beyond the value of their service, leaving them with damaged roofs covered with unsuitable and sometimes dangerous treatment products.

If you elect to have a topical treatment applied to your cedar roof, the Cedar Bureau recommends the following:

1. Ask if the company has a Roof Maintenance Technician (RMT) membership with the Cedar Bureau.
2. Check references (consumer, Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce).
3. Ask about the treatment product that is being used (more details follow).
4. Ask to see the company's workmanship guarantee, license and workers' compensation coverage.



Architects: CBT/Childs Bertman Tsekares & Casendino Inc.,  
Photo: Wheeler Photographics

### Topical Treatment Products

It is not within the Cedar Bureau's mandate to recommend brand names of topical roof treatment products. Consult with your local RMT for product information regarding cleaning and preserving cedar in your area. The Cedar Bureau does, however, recommend the following:

#### DO use a topical treatment product that:

- Offers a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet that lists product ingredients and safety precautions)
- Is labeled as a cedar roof treatment product or has a letter from the manufacturer stating that treating cedar roofs is an appropriate use for this product
- Is a water repellent, UV inhibitor, and/or EPA registered wood preservative
- Has a manufacturer's performance guarantee

#### DO NOT use a topical treatment product that:

- Makes outrageous claims (such as a 10-year effectiveness)
- Makes fire-retardant claims
- Is a sealant, waterproofer or plasticizer
- Contains unfortified linseed oil, diesel fuel or crank case oil

The Cedar Bureau is aware of numerous bleaching and cleaning agents. Consumers are advised to heed the preceding topical treatment precautions before allowing such products to be applied to a cedar roof.

### Powerwashing

This is the most controversial issue in the care and maintenance industry. It is a fact that high pressure washing by inexperienced people will cause significant damage to any material. Some debris can easily be removed with garden hose pressure. Some contractors powerwash to clean roofs, while others do not. If powerwashing is used, the roof should receive a topical treatment to restore the roof. The Cedar Bureau recommends having a professional RMT assess each job on an individual basis to determine if powerwashing is appropriate or not. RMT care and maintenance professionals know the proper procedures, which include factoring in:

- Age, condition and environment of roof
- Gallons sprayed per minute
- Fan tip size
- Distance spray nozzle is held from roof
- Pressure per square inch and others...

### The Beauty Of Cedar

Another good thing about cedar is that it is possible to replace and repair parts of the roof, without worrying that your replacement shakes or shingles are significantly different in composition from your original shakes or shingles. Over the hundreds of years that cedar has been used, the product has remained unchanged... it's still cedar. As cedar advances to its mature stage, it is natural to expect some pieces to require replacement. Individual repairs are possible, and with prompt attention, proactive repairs can extend the life of your wise Certi-label cedar investment.



Architect: Arnold Scribner & Associates, Photo: Erven Jourdan