

# SPECIFYING OF WESTERN RED CEDAR AND YELLOW CEDAR PRODUCTS

- Notable Differences
- Drying requirements
- Grade specifications
- Size specifications
- Manufacturing
- Surface finishes

## WESTERN RED CEDAR

- Rot resistance
- Distinct colours
- Highly stable
- Takes stain



## NOTABLE DIFFERENCES

- Colour
- Stability of green vs. kiln dried
- Rot resistance
- Ability to take stain colors

## ALASKAN YELLOW CEDAR

- Unique colouring
- Strength MOE: 30% higher WRC | 20% Less than DFIR
- Rot resistance
- Excellent deck product



## DRYING REQUIREMENTS

### Wood Drying Methods:

- Air drying
- Conventional kilns
- Vacuums kilns
- Radio frequency vacuum kilns
- Steam kilns
- You can destroy or properly dry any product in each method
- Drying too fast can damage
- Drying to statistically tested moisture ranges is the most important quality control metric. The average and standard deviation combine to tell you how much of the wood is dried to an acceptable moisture content



### WHICH APPLICATION IS BEST? THEY ALL WORK.

### HOW DRY IS DRY ENOUGH?

Wood will try to achieve equilibrium with its climate.

The range is more important than the average – ie: if you are in Phoenix with an average of 8%, it should be good, but if the standard deviation is 3%, you will have many pieces over 10% and those pieces will continue drying to achieve equilibrium – resulting in shrinking and warping.

- Wood continues to shrink by  $\frac{1}{2}$  – 1% per 4 percentage points MC under the Fibre saturation point (~28%).
- Wood gets noticeably more brittle as it dries further. Harder to machine and install without checking, chipping and breaking.

Phoenix 6-10%

Napa Valley 9-13%

Miami 11-15%

Alaska 13-17%

GRADE SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Do you want knots?
- 2. What is your tolerance for natural defects?
- 3. Does grain orientation matter to your application?

KNOTS OKAY / NOT LIMITED

#2 & Better  
No Hole

- Rougherheaded grade
- Usually sold green
- Okay for outdoor uses
- Not recommended in yellow cedar – too much warping as it dries



#2 & BETTER  
APPEARANCE  
-FOR TIMBER  
APPLICATIONS

- Can be kiln dried for added value
- Green red cedar – okay
- Free of heart
- Select structural if there is an engineering requirement



SELECT TIGHT KNOT  
(STK) – SIDING/TRIM/  
DECKING

- 1" & 2" finish product
- Kiln dried only
- Not air dried
- Exception some decks
- No heart spec needed



CLEAR (LIMITED KNOTS)

Default to A & Better  
Clear (allowing 15% B)

- 1" & 2" finish product
- Kiln dried only
- Allows some knots and small defects
- Interchangeable with #2 Clear Spec – which is more common for 3" & thicker specifications

Other Clear Grades

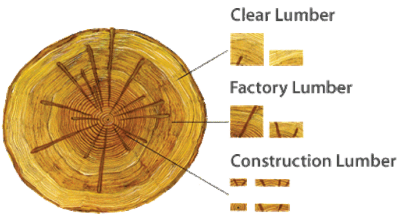


- #4 CLEAR
- D & BETTER
- #4 CLEAR & BETTER
- C & BETTER
- A & BETTER 15% B / 2 CLEAR
- #1 CUT STOCK

For these, ask for a copy of the grade rule and compare to A & BTR.

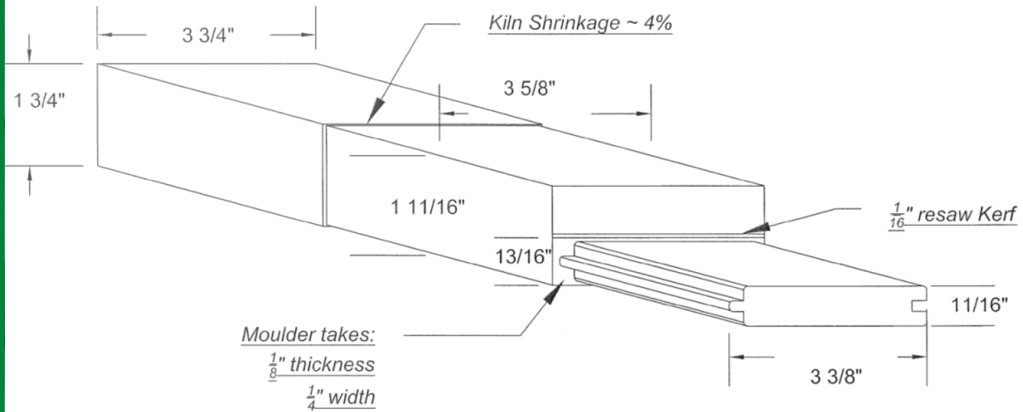
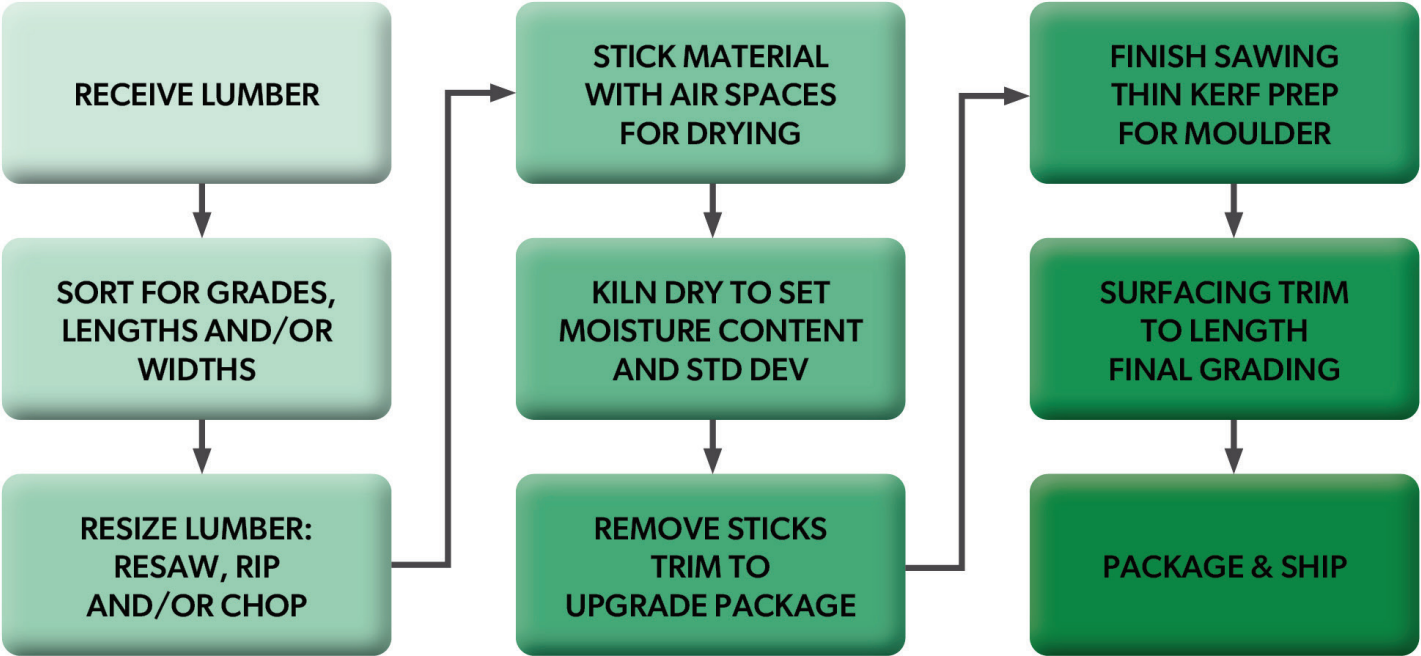
Vertical vs Flat vs  
Mixed Grain

- Default is mixed grain
- All knotty is flat grain, only specify flat grain when specific look is needed in clear
- Vertical grain A & BTR will have less defect than mixed grain due to the way knots form
- Vertical grain is more stable than flat grain



————— FRESH CUT  
..... AFTER DRYING

SPECIFYING SIZES - MANUFACTURING PROCESS



NOMINAL FINISHED SIZES

1"	>	11/16"
5/4"	>	1"
2"	>	1.5"
4"	>	3.5"
6"	>	5.5"
8"	>	7.25"
10"	>	9.25"
12"	>	11.25"

## SURFACE FINISHES

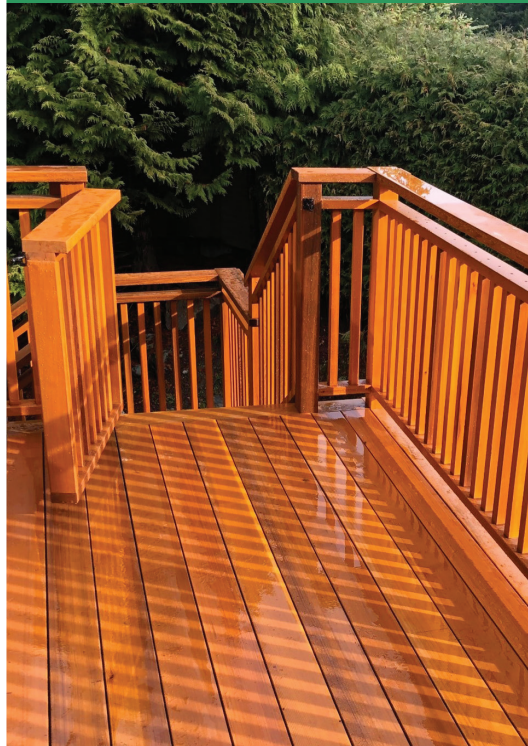
### ROUGH SAWN - GREAT FOR STAIN!

- Mill Rough Green
  - Lowest cost option
  - Full Size available
  - Will shrink / warp / check
- Resawn After Drying
  - More uniform finish with fine tooth saw
  - Standard sizes required (Shrinkage, Saw Kerf)
  - After drying = no shrink / warp / check



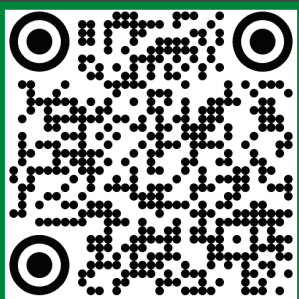
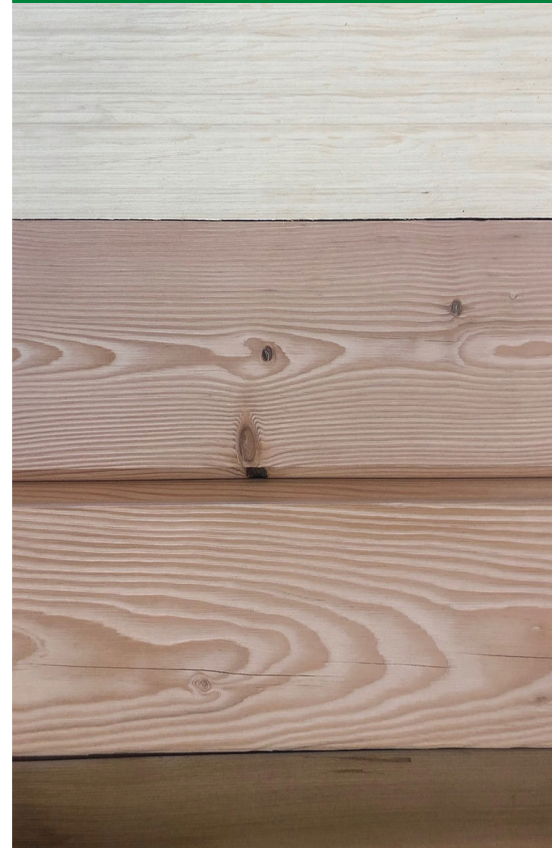
### SMOOTH FINISH

- Smooth face and edges
  - Specify eased or square edges
  - Square edges are brittle and don't take stain well
- Sanding option
  - WRC – for high end finish
  - YC – needs to be sanded for staining



### OTHER OPTIONS

- Rougher headed
- Comb face
- Custom runs
- Special profiles
- Resawn 4 sides



**Thank you for attending 2025 Cedar School.**

**POWERWOOD**  
Custom Cedar Done Right.

We'd love to hear from you. If you have any questions after the WRCLA 2025 Cedar School hosted at PowerWood, please let us know and we will do our best to answer.

Please scan the QR code for the online brochure and more information on Cedar and the PowerWood facility in Agassiz, BC.