

Certi-label™ Restoration Projects Product and Application Summary



The Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau (“CSSB”) is the non-profit industry association that represents Certi-label™ brand cedar shakes and shingles. Founded in 1915, the CSSB administers a quality assurance program, provides marketing services, works with building code updates, and protects the viability of the industry. Certi-label products are

available for both roofing and sidewall applications. Product selection includes Forest Certified, pressure impregnated fire-retardant treated, or pressure impregnated preservative-treated. Technical assistance, literature, and informational seminars are some of the helpful services offered. Please contact the CSSB for the field office closest to you.



Historical Applications Accuracy

It is of prime importance to replicate the original building. A challenge comes with finding historically accurate products and meeting current building codes. Years ago, people did not use products such as plastic shakes, vinyl siding, and concrete tiles. Wood was the building material of choice, and wise project leaders are still specifying wood. The CSSB can help with period-correct specification of cedar shakes or shingles, assist with application information, and source the proper finishing products relevant to the era of specific historical projects. The CSSB also has contacts in the building official community and highly recommends you contact them for project approval guidelines, possibly including variances for specific historical projects.

Custom Dimensions Available

CSSB member manufacturers offer specialty products to meet the needs of historic project managers. Dimensions that exceed “stock” sizes can be sourced through the CSSB's extensive member

network. Key historical products that are available:

- Tapersplit shakes, in various lengths up to 36” and beyond
- Straight Split shakes, in various lengths up to 36” and beyond (Straight Split shakes are also known as Barn shakes)
- Shingles are available in various thicknesses upon request

Tips for Specifying Historical Projects

One needs to be historically accurate, though some replications are specific to the period and not necessarily to the date of the building. One can often determine the type of application by searching the building (such as the attic) for pieces of material from original construction, asking family and neighbors, or using historical photographs.

- Avoid Handsplit products for historical applications as they are not time-period correct. Handsplit shake machines were not available until approximately 1935. Prior to 1935, shakes were hewn using the traditional mallet and froe
- Shingle machines have been in existence since about 1835, developed by shakers in Maine and New Hampshire
- Consider using Straight Split shakes (barn shakes) and Tapersplit shakes for authenticity. Oversized Straight Split shakes and Tapersplit shakes are acceptable as indicated by the spacing on the nailing strips, old photographs, or project samples
- Once weathered, Alaskan Yellow Cedar is similar in color to Cypress and Juniper. Also it will weather a silver gray that is approximately the same as White Oak. All of these products are representative of the Colonial Era, depending upon location

Free literature is available to interested parties. Please contact the CSSB for details:



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Tips for Installing Historical Products

- Shingle and shake installation should be three ply buildup without felt paper
- Use nailing strips not solid deck sheathing
- Antique sheathing boards were rough sawn which leads to an uneven decking surface. Plywood/OSB panels are not authentic
- Ridge air flow products are not historically authentic
- Use hand nailing rather than any kind of power fasteners. Do not use staples



District Manager Assistance

The CSSB offers assistance from knowledgeable District Managers who have extensive backgrounds in product selection, installation, finishing, and maintenance. CSSB District Managers share correct information that is not clouded by market misperceptions. Their services include:

- Seminars for architects, National Park Service, historical societies, and a variety of other audiences
- AIA Continuing Education Unit seminars
- Guidance on correct historical product and installation procedures
- Historical roofing/siding material accessory assistance
- Help with sourcing unusual sized products
- Promotional photo opportunities for completed projects