

What's in Your Pallet?



Clay Walker, Cedar Quality Auditor,
Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau

Grading, Inspecting and Specifying Cedar Shakes and Shingles

- This brochure contains information about Western Red Cedar and Alaskan Yellow Cedar shake and shingle products. For other wood species consult the respective trade association or the manufacturer.
- Knowing how shakes and shingles are graded and inspected is a critical part of the specification process.

What is a 'shake shingle'?



There is no such thing.

The three main product types are:

Certi-Split® Handsplit and Resawn Shake:

- Split face exposed with a naturally rustic appearance, sawn on back
- Most common are 18" & 24" lengths
- Butt thickness ranges from 3/8" to 1" plus, thicker butts available by special order.

Certigrade® Shingle:

- Sawn on both sides for a tailored appearance
- Available in 16" Five X, 18" Perfection or 24" Royal lengths
- Butt thickness is gauged using a stack of shingles to meet the proper measurement

Certi-Sawn® Tapersawn Shake:

- Sawn on both sides for a semi-textured look with a stronger shadowline than a shingle
- Most common are 18" and 24" lengths
- Butt thickness ranges from 5/8" to 7/8"

These definitions are only intended to provide a brief overview of the differences between basic product types. For more information on installation, product spacing, fasteners and grading, please contact the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau (CSSB).

Grades

It is important to understand how cedar shakes and shingles are graded and packed. Everyone in the design and build process should have a good understanding of these concepts. Knowing how to properly specify cedar shakes and shingles will help you achieve client satisfaction and reduce call backs on derailed projects. Note that a variety of grades, each with nominal grading tolerance levels, is found within the main product categories.



The entire production crew works hard to ensure quality products are put into each bundle. This historical photo shows a packer checking for quality as he builds a bundle. The Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau has 100 years of experience with quality control programs. Source: CSSB Archives.

The Grading Process

Grading is the process by which shakes or shingles are assigned to the correct bundle for their grade. Many people in the mill are involved in this process, starting with the person piling blocks, to the sawyer, right to the packer building bundles. Cedar shake and shingle production is a craftsman's trade; many human hands touch each shake or shingle before it is packaged into a bundle and then onto a pallet.

Tips:

- Keep in mind that the highest grade will provide the best quality, appearance and longevity.
- Ensure you select the product grade that is approved for your project by the local building code official.
- Ask the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau for assistance if you need help understanding grades or product types. Free technical help is available to your building code official.

Who is the Cedar Quality Auditor?

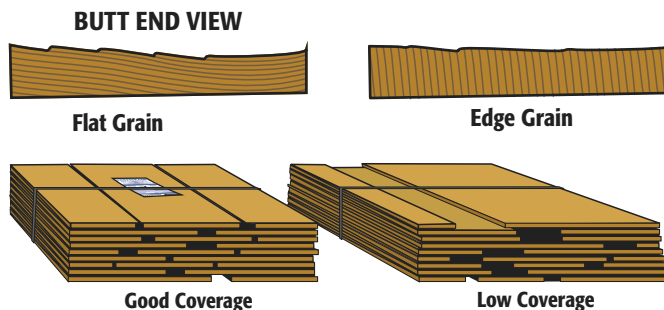
The Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau employs an experienced in house Cedar Quality Auditor AND also contracts with an accredited third party inspection agency: Intertek. This is to ensure quality and standards associated with the Certi-label™ brand are maintained. Don't confuse a manufacturer's in house inspectors with third party inspectors; third party inspection agencies hold proper accreditations, have trained experienced staff and are at arms' length from the manufacturer.

Inspections

Quality manufacturers will contract for independent inspections conducted by an accredited third party inspection agency. The Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau takes this process one step further by having its own Cedar Quality Auditor on staff to provide an additional layer of quality control. That's how serious member mills are about quality.

A variety of product characteristics are looked for during the grading process:

- Off parallel
- Narrow
- Curved back
- Thin product
- Thin edge
- Thick product
- Rot
- Checks
- Knots
- Holes
- Short length



FLAT GRAIN

Flat grain is restricted by grade. No flat grain is permitted in Premium Grade shake or Number One Grade shingle products. Up to 20% per bundle is allowable in Number One Grade shake products. The official grading rules, as referred to in the national building codes, can be reviewed at www.cedarbureau.org

COVERAGE

Some manufacturers cheat by not putting the correct amount of ON GRADE coverage in bundles or cartons. Others make cartons that look full but are actually smaller than standard

size. Read the grading rules and compare them with how much the carton/bundle holds. Much like serving sizes of food, the calorie count doesn't always match the full contents of the container.

How inspections are done:

1. The Inspector or Cedar Quality Auditor arrives, unannounced, at the mill.
2. The Inspector or Cedar Quality Auditor selects a random bundle.
3. S/He measures each shake or shingle in the bundle, discounting the spaces between pieces. Each end of the bundle is so measured, the total figure thus providing the approximate coverage in lineal inches.
4. Next the Inspector or Cedar Quality Auditor cuts the bundle bandwire which holds the materials together.
5. S/He separates the on grade shakes or shingles from those that have defects. Any off grade product is measured and then deducted from the bundle's total lineal inch count. The remaining figure is matched to a standard grading chart that determines if the bundle is over 100% grade or not. Anything below 100% is considered to be an off grade bundle.
6. Off grades will result in more bundles being graded and possible red tags being issued to correct the situation by repacking the off grade product.

Tip: So long as the bundle has sufficient on grade lineal inches, then it can contain additional pieces that are not to grade. These extras should be culled during the installation process and this is how the industry has functioned for over 100 years.

Specifying Cedar Shakes and Shingles

The term "Blue Label" is a registered trademark of the Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau. It should only be used by Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau members. Some uninspected, non-member mills produce a label in a blue color to try and fool the purchaser – the more specific you are about brand and grade, the safer your purchase will be. Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau members all produce product using the Certi-label™ trademarked brand.







Don't be Fooled.

Ensure you are buying third party inspected product from a quality supplier. Unlabeled, uninspected product does not meet building code and is not appropriate for homes.

All photos/diagrams courtesy of Cedar Shake and Shingle Bureau

Here are some sample specifications:

	Brand	Grade & Species	Product Type	Length and Thickness	Common Name
	Certi-grade®	Number 1 Grade Western Red Cedar (Highest Shingle Grade)	Shingles	18" x 5/2¼"	Perfections (Perfs)
	Brand	Grade & Species	Product Type	Length and Thickness	Common Name
	Certi-Split®	Number 1 Grade Western Red Cedar	Handsplit & Resawn Shakes	24" x 3/4"	Heavies
	Brand	Grade & Species	Product Type	Length and Thickness	Common Name
	Certi-Split®	Premium Grade Western Red Cedar	Handsplit & Resawn Shakes	18" x 1/2"	Mediums
	Brand	Grade & Species	Product Type	Length and Thickness	Common Name
	Certi-Sawn®	Premium Grade Alaskan Yellow Cedar	Tapersawn Shakes	18" x 3/4"	Tapersawns

WE'RE HERE TO HELP:



Tony Bonura, District Manager, Northeast: (631) 643-7839 tony@cedarbureau.com

Tony Hyatt, District Manager, Northern Midwest: (608) 848-2667 hyatt.t@cedarbureau.com

Peter Parmenter, District Manager, Southeast: (912) 898-8173 peter@cedarbureau.com

Clay Walker, Cedar Quality Auditor: (604) 820-7700 clay@cedarbureau.com

www.cedarbureau.org

August 2015 Printed in Canada

