This publication offers a brief overview of the more common cedar shake and shingle installation mistakes; it is not a comprehensive installation guide. For more details please reference applicable building code as well as the full suite of technical literature available at www.cedarbureau.org. The information in this publication is not intended to supersede local building codes. Check with your local building code official for requirements in your specific jurisdiction.

**KEYWAYS**

Cedar expands and contracts depending upon weather conditions and therefore should not be installed without correct keyway spacing (vertical spaces between adjacent pieces). If keyway spacing is too tight, this will cause a phenomenon called fish-mouthing or buckling. Keyways should also be offset so moisture cannot run in a continuous channel down multiple courses. Never caulk keyways. Review the CSSB's manuals for correct keyway spacing specific to shakes and shingles.

**UNDERLAYMENT**

- No. 30 ASTM D226 and No. 30 ASTM D4869 are the only two underlayments recommended by the CSSB for steep slope cedar roof applications.
- There are over 80 different types of synthetic underlayments, none of which are tested by the CSSB. However, there are a few synthetic underlayment brands that claim their brand of underlayment is permeable. Check with the manufacturer for the "Perm Rating", application and specifications.
- Rot felting occurs when the felt is dropped into the keyway and is exposed to the sun, thus causing degradation of the felt with UV exposure over time. The felt interlay should not be visible in the space (keyway) between each shake.

**EXPOSURE**

Make sure you do not overexpose the shakes or shingles. “Overexposure” means allowing excessive lengths of installed product to be seen. Some contractors do this to save on materials, but in the end they encounter building code official-sanctioned tear offs, lifting/ski-tipped product and leaky installed systems. Check with the CSSB and local building code for correct exposure measurements.
MOISTURE BARRIERS

Only use non-permeable barriers at the eaves and valleys. If you elect to use it over the entire deck, it will create moisture issues that will affect roof integrity and longevity. Dripping at the eaves, due to condensation (“sweating”) beneath the shakes or shingles, is a telltale sign of moisture issues.

Continuous Ventilation Products (“CVP”)

There are many types of CVPs available. The CSSB is not involved in the design or engineering of any brand of CVP. Check with the CVP manufacturer for specification, installation, warranty and air flow guarantees for its specific brand. Ask about product compression rates when installed with roofing systems and also what real world testing the product has undergone.

FASTENERS

Pressure Impregnated Treated Shakes and Shingles

Fasteners used with fire-retardant-treated (Certi-Guard®) and preservative-treated (Certi-Last®) shakes or shingles must be stainless steel Type 316. For specifics on installation, accessory building materials (flashing, etc.), finishes and maintenance please contact the treatment company directly (search www.cedarbureau.org)

Ensure you use the correct fastener for your project. Nail and staple information is available at www.cedarbureau.org.

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