

A Word About Topical Treatments For Installed Roofs

There are hundreds of companies offering topical roof spraying and cleaning services. The CSSB 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 CSSB recommends the following:

1. Check references (consumer, Better Business Bureau, Chamber of Commerce).
2. Ask about the treatment product that is being used (more details follow).
3. Ask to see the company's workmanship guarantee, license and workers' compensation coverage.

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

Topical Treatment Products

It is not within the CSSB's mandate to recommend brand names of topical roof treatment products. Consult with your local professionals for product information regarding cleaning and preserving cedar in your area. The CSSB 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 CSSB 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 CSSB recommends having a professional assess each job on an individual basis to determine if powerwashing is appropriate or not. 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.

Additional information on Care and Maintenance can be found at www.cedarbureau.org