

Cedar Roof Care & Maintenance: Highlights



Cedar roof care and maintenance is an important part of your investment in Mother Nature's protection. This document is the place to start for basic information. If you're seeking something more technical, just let us know and we can provide more scientific details. Alternatively, visit www.cedarbureau.org.

Matching new cedar to old cedar

A good thing about cedar is that it is possible to replace and repair parts of the roof without worrying that the replacement shakes or shingles are significantly different in composition from the original shakes or shingles. Over the hundreds of years that cedar has been used, the product has remain 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.

Matching new cedar to old cedar

New cedar shakes and shingles will typically weather to an attractive gray color in approximately 6 - 9 months. Note: the exact time frame is dependent upon local environmental conditions.

Repair is possible and practical

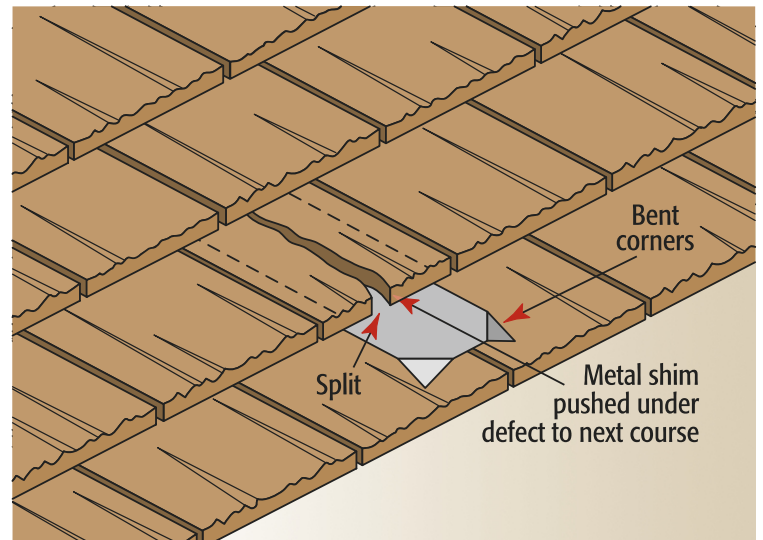
Let's face it, re-roofing a home is a large job that should be undertaken only if necessary. Unnecessary re-roofing projects hurt the insurance industry and policy holders with higher costs, and increase waste disposal or recycling needs (remember that cedar is biodegradable and will not linger in landfills as long as many alternative products).

Unlike alternative synthetic roofing materials, one never has to worry about matching color lots or factory profile designs: product styles manufactured 100 years ago are still made today. For help in sourcing specific items, the CSSB offers free technical assistance.

Repair Methods: One of the correct methods of replacing a cedar shake is hooking a nail, cutting it and removing the damaged shake or shingle, then installing new product and gently tapping it up into affected course. For other approved methods, please contact the CSSB.

Shimming

Shimming can be used to repair the odd shake or shingle, filling in a split piece from below using a piece of metal bent at corners. This method is effective, however, no more than 20% of a roof area should be shimmed, for both roofing system integrity and cosmetic appearance purposes. If this 20% limit is reached, one should consider repairing the area with new shakes or shingles OR a complete re-roof job, depending upon the circumstance and level of damage. In general, no more than 25 hail impact splits per 100 square foot section should exist, if repairs are being contemplated.



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Cedar Roof Care & Maintenance: Highlights continued...

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. The CSSB recommends having a professional assess each job on an individual basis. A professional should consider the following factors to determine if powerwashing is appropriate or not:

- Age, condition and environment of roof
- Gallons sprayed per minute
- Fan tip size
- Distance spray nozzle is held from roof
- Pressure per inch
- Direction of spray (don't spray up roof)

A word about topical treatments for installed roofs

There are hundreds of companies offering topical roof spraying and cleaning services. 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 topical treatment applied to your cedar roof, the CSSB recommends the following:

- Check references including consumer, Better Business Bureau and Chamber of Commerce.
- Ask to see the treatment product that is being used.
- Ask to see the company's workmanship guarantee, license and workers' compensation coverage.
- Ask to review roofs that the company has treated, both recently and a few years prior.



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Topical treatment products

It is not within the CSSB's mandate to recommend brand names of topical roof treatment products. 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 of 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 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. Many claim to be effective on moss/mildew removal or accelerating cedar's change to the weathered gray color. Contact the preservative treatment or fire-retardant treatment manufacturer for their specific criteria for cleaning and finishing. Consumers are advised to heed the preceding topical treatment precautions before allowing such products to be applied to a cedar roof. Scientific studies are available: contact the CSSB for details.

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