

Exterior Finishes (also known as Coatings)

There are a variety of paints, stains and preservative treatments available for Certi-label® Western Cedar sidewall products. Certi-label® sidewall products are available pre-finished (pre-primed or pre-stained) and natural (unfinished).

Please note: A detailed product finishing discussion is beyond the scope of this manual; however, a brief overview is presented below. It is critical to read the instructions on the finish product's container as well as follow the finish manufacturer's directions. All areas of the world present unique painting/staining challenges. Some of the topics you should discuss with your sidewall product manufacturer, finish manufacturer and professional contractor include the following:

1. Product coverage
2. Surface preparation
3. Qualified finish contractors in your area
4. Certi-label® Western Cedar moisture content level recommended for your specific locale
5. Appropriateness of finish for Certi-label® Western Cedar sidewall products
6. Drying color versus sample chip color
7. Material Safety Data Sheet
8. Mildew resistance
9. UV resistance and water repellency
10. Exterior/Interior finish usage
11. Depth of finish penetration
12. Application method, including how to cover all sides of product, mixing/stirring (to prevent lap marks), temperature, brush versus spraying tools and recommended proper clean up and disposal of all tools, brushes and rags. Talk to your finish manufacturer if you have questions about back-priming instructions for your particular project.
13. Price. Do not be fooled by a low price. Better quality brands tend to be more expensive. A cheap finish will usually cost more in the long run through quicker weathering, poorer coverage and less pigment. Use only the highest quality products from your finish manufacturer.

Quality finish manufacturers have technical help lines you can call (some are toll-free).

The CSSB Recognizes these General Types of Finishes:

Transparent finishes (penetrating oil-based): clear, allow natural grain to show through, may also include paintable water repellent preservatives. Such treatment can possibly, depending upon the product, inhibit mildew growth as well as rapid change in color due to weathering.

Semi-transparent and semi-solid stains (penetrating oil-based): have some pigment, but allow some wood grain to show.

Paint or solid stain: provide opaque coverage, allowing little to no wood grain to show.

Certi-label® Western Cedar Sidewall Finishing Systems: Preferred Paint System

Step 1: Factory or field applied alkyd oil or latex stain blocking primers on all surfaces.

Step 2: Field-applied top coat of highest quality 100% acrylic latex paint. This type of top coat is more flexible and more resistant to blistering and cracking. The best protection against extractive bleeding is the application of an oil-based, stain- blocking primer before the top coat is applied.

- OR -

Less Durable Paint System

Step 1: Factory or field applied alkyd oil or latex stain blocking primers on all surfaces.

Step 2: Field-applied oil-based or alkyd top coat.

CSSB member manufacturers do supply factory-primed products. These products are usually more cost-effective than on-site priming.

Stains

Use oil-based stains only. CSSB member manufacturers can factory-apply a coat of semi-transparent or semi-solid oil-based stain. This process is usually more cost-effective than on-site staining. Further enhancing the natural durability of Certi-label® Western Cedar shingles and shakes, some CSSB members offer pass-through finish warranties on their factory finished sidewall shingles and shakes. These can be further enhanced by application of a final, field-applied top coat. Contact participating CSSB members for details.

To Accelerate the Weathering Process

To hasten the weathering process, apply a bleaching oil finish.