



Homegrown Timbers

Data Sheet

British Western Red Cedar (Thuja Plicata)

Distribution

British cedar has been grown in both our English and Welsh woodlands for over a hundred years and the timber is ideal for exterior cladding.

Environmental

Using native cedar is an essential part of ensuring that our local woodlands are managed and nurtured for the future as well as avoiding the substantial environmental impact of shipping.

The Timber

When left untreated, all timber will bleach to a silver colour. Because of its relative consistency British WRC weathers more evenly than the Canadian. Northerly elevations may weather to a darker grey than those facing South.

Service Life

Western Red Cedar has a long life expectancy of around 30 years. If however, the timber is frequently wet, this can be reduced to 15 years.

Main Uses

External cladding.

Colour

British western red cedar has a pink to amber colouring with frequent dark knots. This is paler, but more consistent, than its Canadian cousin.

General Information

Wood Type

Clears Softwood

Density

330 – 390 kg/M³

Durability

Class 3

Movement

Small

Grain Direction

Mixed, flat and vertical (unless specified)

Texture

Coarse

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Fixing

Face fix or secret fix with stainless steel ringshank nails.
Pre-drilling ideal but not essential.

Working Qualities

Good workability - takes fixings well. However, Cedar is soft and relatively brittle which can result in bruising and splintering. No pre-drilling necessary.

Profiles

British cedar is available in both sawn and machined profiles.

Natural Characteristics

Although Canadian and British Western Red Cedar are the same specie, the British grown timber is visually very different from that grown in Canada.

British grown cedar is paler and contains frequent dark knots, resulting in a more rustic appearance. British cedar is just as stable and has the benefit of more consistent colour which leads to more consistent weathering.

British Larch (Larix Decidua)

Colour

British larch ranges in colour from pinky-brown in the heartwood, to creamy-white in the sap band. There are frequent dark brown knots, which can loosen as the wood dries.

Environmental

British larch cladding is sourced locally from well-managed forests, many of which are independently certified.

Service Life

British Larch has a long life expectancy of around 30 years. If however, the timber is frequently wet, this can be reduced to 15 years.

The Tree

Larch trees grown in Great Britain are European larch and should not be confused with Siberian larch. The two species are distinctly different in terms of looks and performance. Native grown larch is pink in colour and tends to be quite knotty.

Weathering

Larch is quite consistent and is not reactive, and as such, will weather relatively evenly.

Main Uses

External cladding.

General Information

Wood Type

Softwood

Density

470–650 kg / M³ when dry.

Durability

Durable Class 3 – 4

Movement

Large

Extractives

British larch contains resin rather than oil or tannin. The resin does not tend to bleed and is not reactive.

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Working Qualities

Good workability. Takes fixings well.

Fixing

Face fix with stainless steel ring shank nails. Pre-drilling advised. Fix in winter months only.

Profiles

British larch is sold 'green' or wet and is best suited to sawn cladding profiles such as feather-edge and waney-edge.

Aesthetic

British larch is our most cost-effective type of cladding and is ideally suited to traditional buildings or agricultural renovations where a rustic appearance is desired.



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This information sheet provides general advice only and is not specific to the requirements of a particular building project. It is the builder's responsibility to check compliance with Building Regulations and Standards.