Moisture Content & Nailing – Western Red Cedar Siding has outstanding performance and durability when installed correctly. Two of the most important installation steps are acclimatizing and correct nailing.

Moisture Content

Western Red Cedar gains and loses moisture due to atmospheric moisture. It may shrink or swell until it reaches equilibrium with the level of moisture in the air. Keep wood dry by storing under cover. To adequately acclimate, stack the siding on evenly spaced, vertically aligned stickers in an area of good air flow, allowing 4-6 inches ground clearance. Refer to WRCLA web site (www.wrcla.com) for drying times in various conditions and parts of the country.

Nailing

Nail Types/Points & Shanks

Stainless steel nails are preferable. Hot dipped galvanized and high tensile strength aluminum are also corrosion resistant and can be used when installing Red Cedar. Other nails may react with the natural preservatives in cedar and cause staining.

“Splitless” siding nails have blunt heads and thin shanks, which reduces the chance of splitting. Nails with ring or spiral shanks have greater holding power. Pre-drill when nailing close to edges.

Bevel

Beginning with the bottom course, use a starter strip to allow for proper spacing. Overlap the undercourse by no less than 1 inch. Nail 1 1/2” into the stud. Be careful not to nail through two overlapping pieces of siding, since this will cause splitting.

Tongue & Groove

Starting with the bottom course work up with the groove edge facing down to ensure weather tight fit. Nail 1 1/2” into the stud. Siding up to 6 inches wide in normal weather conditions can be toe nailed as shown in this diagram.

Channel

Channel siding installation is similar to bevel. However, a 1/8” expansion gap between courses must be left to allow the siding to expand with the moisture conditions. Once again, take care not to nail through two courses of siding.

Windy or extreme weather conditions usually requires two nails as shown in the diagram. Blind nail siding by toe nailing in tongue and add one face nail to secure the siding.

Siding wider than 6 inches requires two face nails to adequately secure the tongue and groove siding. The nails should be spaced 2 1/2 – 3” apart and should penetrate 1 1/2” into solid wood.