

## Technical Bulletin #3

### Finishing Panelized Cedar Shingle Siding

#### Cedar Valley Recommends Premium Stain Designed for Wood Siding

##### **Stains Accent Cedar Grain and Color, Extend Life, Minimize Maintenance:**

Cedar Valley Mfg. strongly recommends finishing with either Two coats of a premium semi-transparent stain or an oil-based primer and acrylic solid color topcoat. Stain fills the pores in the wood to keep moisture from penetrating, adding life to siding and providing an additional layer of protection to the home. The finish helps conceal unpredictable leaching of tannic acid, cedar's natural preservative and insect protection (but no finish can guarantee total control of extractive bleeding). Two coats of Semi-Transparent finishes protect the cedar without hiding the natural grain and texture variations, while primer & solid color top coats provide low maintenance, long-lasting colors.

##### **Machine Factory Finish Provides Extended Warranties:**

Because of the uniform finish achieved in a factory-controlled environment, Machine Factory Finishing is one of the more popular options and recommended by Cedar Valley, especially when large quantities of panels are involved. Commercial factory finishing can offer significant savings in labor and ensures a more professional result. When done by our network of authorized Factory finishers, panels with solid top coats qualify for extended warranties of 25, 35 or 50 years. (See actual warranties for details)

##### **Pre-staining:**

Cedar Valley siding should ALWAYS be stained before installation. Pre-staining can be done on site with a brush, roller, or flooding methods. On site stainers must make certain the stain reaches into all of the keyways (spaces between shingles) and is spread evenly over the surface. Excess stain should be back-brushed into the wood. A minimum of 2 coats are highly recommended for adequate protection. These initial coats are critical to the durability of the siding and future maintenance coats.

**CAUTION:** Cedar Valley does not recommend staining panels after installation. Climatic conditions after installation can cause delays of days, weeks or months which will reduce the adhesion and durability of coatings applied to Cedar Valley panels. Machine Factory Staining or pre-coating the panels results in the best finish.

##### **Natural Color Available with Factory Finishing:**

Modern stains make maintaining the natural colors of western red cedar easier than ever before. For a natural wood appearance, semi-transparent stains are available that show the grain, texture and color variations of real cedar shingles. Talk to your authorized factory

finisher about the look you are trying to achieve for recommendations on the type of stain and number of coats.

##### **Naturally Weathered Cedar:**

If the intent is to achieve a weathered color often associated with aged cedar, Cedar Valley recommends use of a stain that anticipates the desired shade, such as light gray or driftwood color. Stains also help reduce the natural weathering characteristics of untreated wood to shrink, split or curl.

##### **Acclimatizing Shingles Before Staining Essential:**

*Cedar, like all wood species, absorbs and loses moisture, expanding and contracting with the local humidity. Cedar Valley dries shingles to approximately 12-15% moisture content before assembly. When pre-staining the panels on job, store in a garage or other covered area, unwrap the pallets and allow the panels to acclimatize 24 hours (more if in a high humidity situation).*

##### **Use Known Brands & Follow Instructions:**

When buying any finish, choose a quality label and read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Do not dilute or thin the product. Always "box" the cans, which means mix each half empty can with the next to maintain the same pigment density throughout the job.

##### **Cedar Valley Panels Accept Paint:**

While solid stains are a better choice, Cedar Valley panels can be satisfactorily painted; again using oil-based primer as the first coat, but the heavy pigmentation tends to hide the shingle's natural texture and colors. Where painting is required, the open keyway option should be selected to help retain the shingle style look

##### **Maintenance:**

Maintenance cycles for staining vary greatly and depend on the type of stain that is applied to the panels and the local environment. Two coats of a semi-transparent stain have maintenance cycles between 2-4 years while solid stains can last up to 5-7 years and premium acrylic topcoats applied by Factory Finishers last 8-12 years between coatings. Ask your local machine finisher about stain warranties offered by the coating manufacturers.

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