

REAL CEDAR

FENCES & GATES



Fences & Gates

Western Red Cedar fences are not only beautiful, they also offer outstanding performance. Whether you choose custom built or pre-built panels, Western Red Cedar fences will outperform other materials without the need for chemical treatments. Western Red Cedar is naturally durable and has a low percentage of sapwood which means it will stand up to the elements longer than other woods. The beauty of Western Red Cedar is often imitated but nothing can match the warmth and character of the real thing. When designing and choosing fencing materials, don't settle for anything but Real Cedar, Western Red Cedar.



Photo by: www.gardenstructure.com



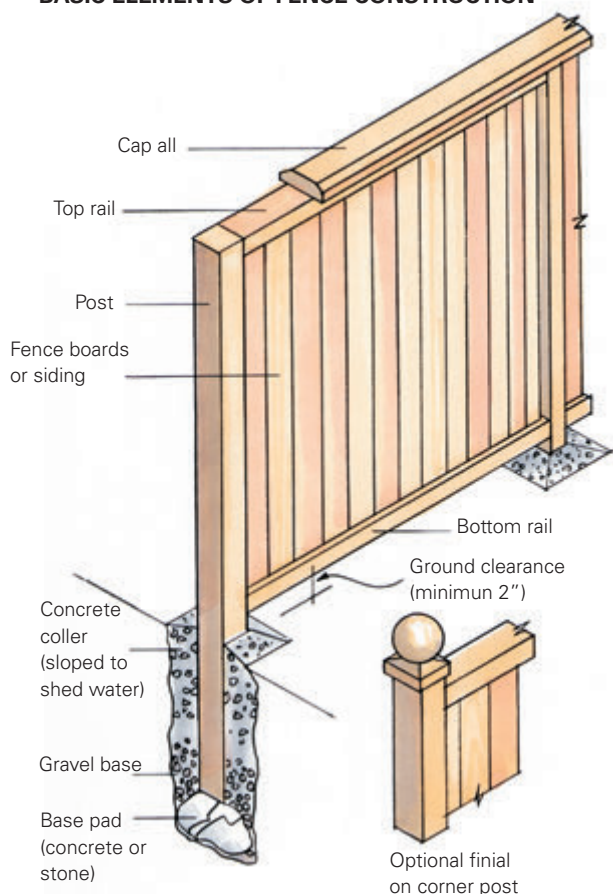
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Fences & Gates

BASIC ELEMENTS OF FENCE CONSTRUCTION



Most fences are constructed with three basic elements: post, rails and infill material. Posts are vertical uprights. Rails run horizontally between, and are supported by the posts. Infill material, most commonly boards, are attached to the rails. For each of these elements there is a size and grade of Western Red Cedar to build just about any style of fence on any budget. Remember, it doesn't necessarily cost more to have a stylish fence.

Here's a checklist of points you should consider when planning a fence:

- Choose a style that suits both the purpose of the fence and the landscape, then maintain consistency of style throughout.
- Decide whether you'll build the fence from scratch or from ready-made fencing sections.
- Select from rough or surfaced material for posts, rails and boards.
- Select solid boards with flat tops or choose from a variety of patterned-top boards such as pointed, dogeared, gothic, spearhead, roundtop and others.

- Decide whether short length pattern siding such as channel or tongue and groove V-joint will achieve the look you want.

- Consider using lattice panels alone or in combination with solid boards where a lighter, more open fence is desired.

- Decide on the type of finish. Transparent or semitransparent stains are suggested if a natural look is desired. Solid color stains are recommended if an opaque finish is desired.

FENCE HARDWARE

Many different types of hardware are now available to help you build your fence. Popular among these are metal post supports in the form of a 4x4 in. box atop long fins two feet or more in length which are driven into the ground. Posts are set directly into the box and fastened with bolts or lag screws. By using these post supports you can eliminate post-hole digging and concreting. Another popular form of post base is a 4x4 in. metal saddle which can be set on a concrete pad and to which the post can be nailed or lag screwed. You can also use metal saddles to connect railing posts to a wood deck. One easy way to secure fence rails to posts and to simplify corner attachments, is to use aluminium or galvanized metal brackets similar to joist hangers.

PRE-BUILT FENCE PANELS

Western Red Cedar fences of many styles are available in pre-built panels from 3 ft. to 6 ft. high. The boards may be plain, V-jointed tongue and groove, or channel patterns. Construction is usually 2x4 in. rails and 1x6 in. boards.

Boards are usually butted tightly together but panels with spaced boards are also available. These time-saving fence sections are sold by the panel. You are advised to carefully examine fence panels to ensure that they are built from suitable quality Western Red Cedar boards and are sturdily assembled with corrosion-resistant fasteners. When using pre-built fence panels it is important that you check the dimensions before installation. Good practice is to set posts and panels one at a time rather than pre-setting all posts.

PRE-BUILT LATTICE PANELS

Western Red Cedar lattice panels are an alternative or an addition to a solid Western Red Cedar board fence. Rough or smooth-sawn lattice is available pre-built in a choice of square or diagonal patterns in modular sizes to match the most common pre-built fence panels and post spacing.

A lattice fence offers less wind resistance than a solid fence and allows sunlight into shady garden areas. The degree of privacy is governed by the obscurity ratio of the latticework.

Clear Western Red Cedar lattice is one popular option but lattice manufactured from Western Red Cedar with sound tight knots is both economical and good quality. When purchasing lattice, you should make sure that it is well-manufactured from good quality Western Red Cedar of adequate thickness and that it has been correctly assembled. Heavier lattice panels are usually assembled with staples only and require no perimeter framing. Thinner lath lattice may be assembled with exterior-type glue and/or with staples. Lath lattice should be framed around its perimeter. The better quality lath lattice is stapled such that the crown of the staple is flush or countersunk in the wood and the points of the staple do not penetrate the face of the panel.

WESTERN RED CEDAR GATES

Western Red Cedar gates make great first impressions. They convey a sense of welcome to visitors yet add an extra measure of privacy and security to the property without being oppressive in appearance. The type of fence you have decided to build will have a bearing on your choice of gates. Like fences, gates can take many shapes and sizes but they should meet two main requirements: they should be in harmony with the fence and they must function effectively. By using materials of the same quality and texture, you can maintain design continuity and bring fence and gate into harmonious balance.

Here's a short checklist of points to consider when planning a gate:

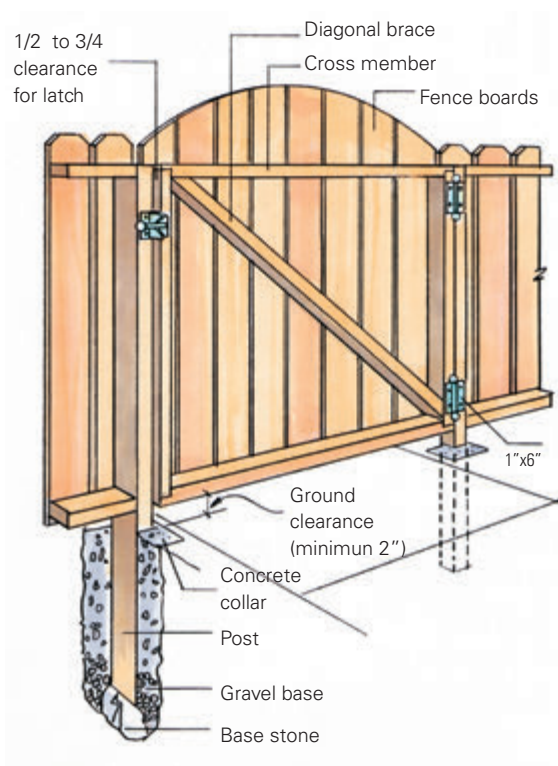
- Choose a style that complements the fence and maintains design and material continuity.
- Locate the gate for convenient entry as it relates to paths, driveways and the general landscaping plan.
- Decide upon the width of the gate. It should be wide enough for two people to pass through side by side and allow clear passage for garden equipment such as lawnmowers and wheelbarrows. Note that gates wider than 4 feet are hard to support and tend to sag. Consider a two section gate for wide openings.
- Determine whether the gate should slide or swing. If a swing gate, establish an unhindered direction of swing. A gate usually swings in towards the property except on sloping ground where it should swing downhill to avoid having to cut the bottom of the gate at an angle.

- Locate the gate at the top of steps rather than at the bottom and make it swing away from the steps for safety's sake.

- Build the gate solidly and attach it with good quality hardware.

GATE HARDWARE

Gate hardware usually consists of hinges, latches, barrel bolts, and tension supports or sag rods. Whatever hardware you select from among the wide range available, make sure that it is sturdy enough to withstand constant use and that it is rust and corrosion-resistant.





REAL CEDAR

DECKING



Decking

A deck made with Western Red Cedar, one of the world's most beautiful woods, is apt to be one of the best looking decks in the neighborhood. But Western Red Cedar decks have much more going for them than good looks alone. Extending living space to the outdoors, integrating home and landscape, making use of damp or uneven terrain and giving a contemporary look to a traditionally-styled home are just a few of the ways that decks make life a little better.



Photo by: www.gardenstructure.com





Decking

Once the decision is made to build a deck, the choice of decking material is just as important as good design and quality construction. In today's environmentally conscious society, the natural choice is Western Red Cedar.

Not only is Western Red Cedar one of the few woods with its own preservative oils, its freedom from pitch and resin makes it an excellent base for protective coatings. And cedar has other natural qualities that make it the best choice for decking. It is one of the most stable of all the softwoods.

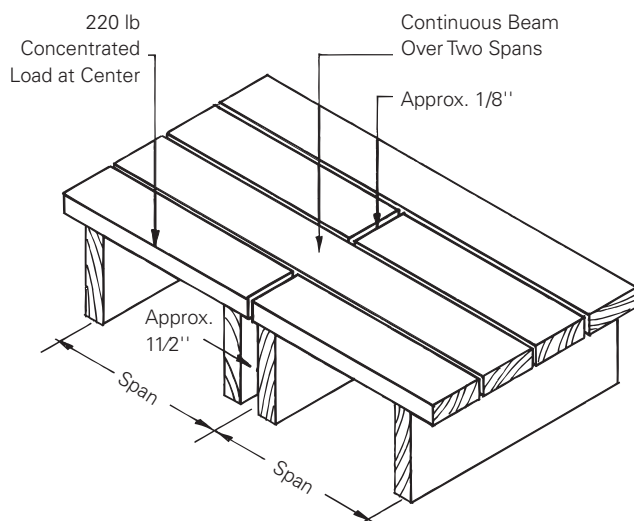
Western Red Cedar decks are firm but resilient underfoot, not hard and unyielding. The wood is light weight, easily worked and ideal for almost all types of finishes. It has an elegance that complements any architectural style and a beauty that blends into all landscapes.

Whatever the reasons for building a deck, there is just one natural choice of decking material. Available in a wide range of grades and sizes, and price-competitive with lesser materials, Western Red Cedar decks are the beautiful, practical, long-lasting complement to any home.

GRADES

To simplify specification, decking is now available in four grade categories offered exclusively by members of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. These few easily understood categories of decking provide a choice of quality clear grades or rustic knotty grades for outdoor decks of any style and budget.

SIZES AND SPANS OF WESTERN RED CEDAR DECKING



WRCLA Western Red Cedar decking is available in a selection of thicknesses, widths and lengths as shown in the table. Maximum spans for decking shown in the table are based on a continuous beam with two equal spans and a concentrated load of 220-lb at the center of one span. The true span of the decking board is used, taking into account the thickness of the supporting joist beneath it. Wet end-use conditions and unseasoned (green) lumber sizes are assumed.

Thickness (in.)	Width (in.)	Grade Category (in.)	Span
1-1/4	4	All clear grade categories	16
1-1/4	4	All knotty grade categories	12
1-1/4	6	All clear and knotty grade categories	16
2	4	All clear and knotty grade categories	24
2	6	All clear and knotty grade categories	24

To help figure the amount of decking needed for a project, use the following linear footage calculator:

To Cover 100 Square Feet of Deck	
Nominal Size (in.)	Linear Feet
1-1/4 x 4	325
2 x 4	325
1-1/4 x 6	211
2 x 6	211

Space deck boards apart to allow proper water drainage. A deck that dries after wetting will last longer than one that stays damp.

Moisture and debris can collect where butt joints occur over-joists. To create drainage, butt decking boards between double joists as shown, leaving a 1/8-in. space between the ends of the boards.

FINISHING YOUR DECK

Protect the surface of the deck from weather exposure prior to stain application. Never allow a Western Red Cedar to "weather" if you intend to stain your deck.

Allow a Western Red Cedar deck to dry thoroughly prior to the application of a penetrating stain so that the wood will absorb the stain readily.

Use high quality, penetrating deck stains. Remember when it comes to coatings, it is important to focus on quality not price.

Never apply film forming finishes like paints and solid stains to decks that are exposure to the weather. These coatings will flake or peel which will require stripping or sanding prior to re-finishing. Paints and stains may work on covered or three season porches.

CARING FOR YOUR DECK

Most people think of regular landscaping maintenance, but deck maintenance is equally as important. All decks regardless of the material they are made from require some degree of maintenance. Even decks made of Western Red Cedar, one of the best performing wood species for outdoor applications, need occasional maintenance to keep them in top shape. Regular deck upkeep enables a cedar deck to last for years, even decades.

- Keep the deck surface and spaces between the boards free from debris.
- Move furniture and planter boxes from time to time.
- Keep the deck surface clean as dirt can feed mold growth.
- Wash the deck surface periodically with a non-phosphate detergent.
- Keep mold and mildew growth under control by applying a mild bleach solution. Oxygen bleach or cleaners containing oxygen bleach should be used for this task. These will need to be left on the deck for 30 minutes to be effective.
- Avoid the use of chlorine bleach as it can damage the wood.
- Rinse the deck thoroughly after using cleaners.
- Always clean the deck prior to application or re-application of deck stains.

Design Your Deck - Online at www.realcedar.com

Tips And Resources

AVAILABLE SIZES

Sizes of Western Red Cedar timbers and dimensional products are typically available in a wide selection of thicknesses from 1" to 12" and widths from 2" to 12". Consult with your local supplier to determine which sizes are available in your area before you begin your project. Standard lengths are multiples of one foot, typically up to 20'. Longer lengths and sizes may be available on a special order basis.

SURFACE TEXTURES

Western Red Cedar products may be specified in different surface finishes

Surfacing	Description	Available			
		Board	Dimension	Decking	Timbers
Rough	Rough sawn texture from either circular or band saws is present on all four sides.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rougher Headed	The lumber receives its texture from a milling process which uses roughened planer knives. The rough texture is clearly visible on all four sides.	No	Yes	No	Yes
S1S2E	Surfaced One Side, Two Edges. This versatile product is the most popular choice for trim boards. The surfacing process resulting in a rough sawn face and a smooth back provides uniform width and thickness tolerances. Typically graded from the rough face.	Yes	Yes	No	No
S4S	Surfaced Four Sides. The smooth surface on all four sides presents a uniformly sized product with a quality appearance. This surface finish is most commonly found on Clear grades.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

GRADES OF WESTERN RED CEDAR

Clear grades of Western Red Cedar have a limited number of natural characteristics and is specified when appearance of the highest quality is desired. Clear grades are normally supplied green (unseasoned). When required, seasoning is achieved by air-drying. Kiln dried products are available on a custom order basis.

Knotty cedar presents a more rustic appearance and is typically supplied green (unseasoned) in the appearance and structural grades. When required, seasoning is achieved by air-drying. Kiln dried knotty Western Red Cedar products are also available upon request.

Assure yourself of quality Western Red Cedar, purchase products from suppliers associated with the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. A listing of these suppliers is available on the website www.realcedar.com.

FASTENERS

Hot-dipped galvanized, aluminium and stainless steel fasteners are all corrosion-resistant and can be used to fasten Western Red Cedar. Other types of nails are not recommended. They can rust and disintegrate and react adversely with the natural preservative oils present in cedar resulting in unsightly stains and streaks. Copper nails also react with cedar and should not be used. Stainless steel nails are the best choice, especially if trim boards are to be finished with transparent or semi-transparent stain. Use No.304 stainless for general applications and No. 316 for seacoast exposures.

Large members require timber connectors other than nails. Bolts, lag screws, split rings and shear plates, and custom made hardware are commonly used in heavy timber structures where the joint's strength must be greater than that which could be achieved with nails. These types of connectors should be corrosion-resistant

or suitably coated to prevent corrosion and staining. Generally, the design of mechanically fastened joints must take into consideration a variety of factors such as end- and edge-spacing distances, moisture content, service conditions, and the effect of the number of connectors used. Because the cost of fabricating and installing connections may amount to a large percentage of the cost of a heavy timber structure, it is important to engineer the details of a structure before designing the timber members.

Screws can be used to fasten decks. Double hot-dipped galvanized screws can be used, however, stainless steel screws are recommended. For most applications a 304 (18-8) grade provides adequate corrosion resistance. For decks exposed to salt air, use 316 grade. Screws must be long enough to penetrate 1" (25mm) into support members. Penetration of minimum 1¼" (32mm) is required for structural components.

Blind fastening systems create an attractive, fastener-free deck surface. They employ metal clips and/or joist top brackets that fasten the sides or bottom of the deck board to the joists so that no fasteners are visible. Blind fastening systems are the ideal complement to the beauty of Western Red Cedar decking.

FINISHING

Although Western Red Cedar is naturally durable, a surface coat is recommended to protect the wood and extend its service life. Western Red Cedar accepts a wide range of stains and other coatings and whichever is selected should be a good quality product recommended by a paint or building supply dealer. When selecting a finish coat, make sure it contains the following: Water repellent; Fungicide/mildewcide; Protection against ultra violet (UV) light. Penetrating oil-based products, particularly those containing pigments, are recommended for Western Red Cedar. Pigments provide increased UV protection.

Semi-transparent stains can be used for decks, landscape structures, fences, siding and trim. Solid stains and paint can be used for siding, trim, landscape structures and fences but never decks. Use an Alkyd Oil base and Stain Blocking Primer, not shellac based. Top Coats should always be 100% Acrylic stain or paint.

Note that decks require products specifically formulated to withstand the abrasive effects of foot traffic. Use of varnishes or other types of film forming coatings are not recommended for cedar decks. These coatings can crack and peel and once applied are difficult to remove.

Before You Start:

- Never let Western Red Cedar weather for more than 2 weeks before staining or painting.
- Never use steel or any 'ferrous' metal tool or brush! Iron or steel will react with Western Red Cedar and cause staining.
- Never use a pressure washer on your Western Red Cedar.

TIP - New Cedar is best when purchased 'Machine Stained or Factory Primed' on all 6 sides of every piece.

TIP - Best surfaces to hold finish in order of preference: sanded with 50 to 80 grit; rough sawn; planed smooth.

TIP - Use a bush or a 'pad painter with bristles' If you must spray on a coating, brush it in.

For more detailed information on finishing, order the WRCLA's "Guide to Finishing" or visit the website www.realcedar.com

PRECUT AND PREBUILT OUTDOOR LIVING PROJECTS

Western Red Cedar fences of many styles are available in pre-built panels. These time-saving fence sections are sold in a variety of sizes and configurations. Similarly, pre-cut kits for a wide selection of outdoor living projects are available from Western Red Cedar Lumber Association members. These include gazebos, pergolas, garden sheds, playhouses and playground sets. For more information on these, please visit the "Outdoor" section of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association website.

	WESTERN RED CEDAR	

WESTERN RED CEDAR LUMBER ASSOCIATION

The Western Red Cedar Lumber Association is an organization of Western Red Cedar producers, distributors and retailers throughout North America. Founded in 1954, the association is known worldwide as “the voice of the cedar industry.” Its members account for more than 65 percent of the world’s production of cedar and have an annual volume of nearly 1 billion board feet.

The mission of the WRCLA is to promote quality Western Red Cedar products and support them with a comprehensive marketing and PR program, technical services, education and training. The WRCLA works closely with architects, designers and builders to ensure the right product is specified and utilized.

*For more information about the WRCLA and Western Red Cedar products, visit our website **www.realcedar.com** or call 1 866 778 9096.*

Assure yourself of quality Western Red Cedar products by purchasing WRCLA member products. To find out where you can purchase Western Red Cedar, please visit the “Where to Purchase WRC” section on **www.realcedar.com**.

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