



INFRAME
GARDEN ROOMS

Garden Room
Natural Timber
Cladding Care



Looking After Your Timber Cladding

Cedar doesn't need treatment for durability

Timber cladding brings natural warmth and texture to a garden room and is a popular choice for clients who want a more organic finish. However, as a natural product, timber will weather and age over time. This is not a fault, it's a feature of working with a living material.

Some fading, silvering, or tonal variation is completely normal and part of the aesthetic that timber offers. As Brooks Timber rightly puts it: "Timber is a natural product that will weather with time and exposure to the elements. This should be embraced, not feared."

As timber is a natural material, variation in colour, movement, knots, surface cracking, and weathering are all expected characteristics and not considered faults. These are part of the timber's natural lifecycle and will not be covered under guarantee. Every board will respond differently to its environment, which is why regular maintenance is key to managing appearance over time.

CEDAR CLADDING OVERVIEW

Mildew mould rot and species related risks in outdoor environments

Cedar Natural Resilience

Western Red Cedar contains natural protective oils named Thujaplicins that slow the development of mould and bacterial growth. These oils make cedar more resistant than many other softwoods although this protection is not absolute. Persistent dampness will eventually overcome this defence.

Risk of Mildew and Mould

Cedar can still develop mildew mould algae and moss where surfaces stay damp for extended periods. This is common outdoors and especially in shaded areas or where ventilation is reduced. Surface mould affects appearance and finishing and requires periodic cleaning to maintain the desired look.

Rot Risk Over Time

Cedar is rated durable however long term exposure to trapped moisture increases the chance of rot and fungal decay. Heartwood offers stronger resistance while sapwood is more vulnerable and may deteriorate faster under constant moisture.

Bees Insects and Other Species

Cedar naturally repels many insects due to its aromatic compounds. Although less common some insects and solitary bees may still explore softer areas of timber for small cavities. This makes species boring into cedar a possible but uncommon risk that clients should be aware of in natural softwood products.

Expert Advice

Cedar offers strong natural performance with attractive appearance and sound resistance to weathering.

However it will need routine cleaning and good ventilation to manage mildew. Long term dampness increases the chance of rot and although rare species boring remains a small risk inherent in all natural softwoods.

A simple 3 step process

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Clean and Prepare the Surface

Before applying any oils or treatments, it's important to remove dirt and organic growth. Brushing the timbers regularly will keep off dirt and debris.

Barrettine Mould & Mildew Cleaner can also be used. It's a ready-to-use surface biocide specifically designed to clean and treat areas affected by mould, algae or fungi.

Unlike bleach-based cleaners, it won't damage the wood fibre or leave behind a chemical smell, and it also lifts light surface dirt in the process. Think of it as your go-to preparation product before any refinishing work.



Restore Greying or Weathered Timber

If your cladding has started to grey or looks patchy, **Osmo Wood Reviver Power Gel** can be used to bring back some of the original colour. This powerful gel is easy to apply and penetrates deeply to remove the greyed surface layer without sanding. It's particularly effective on horizontal areas like window sills or fascias that may have had greater exposure to sun and rain.



Refinish with a Protective Oil

We recommend using a clear UV protection oil to help preserve the natural tone of your timber and slow down the silvering process. This should be applied annually or bi-annually, depending on the level of exposure and the type of timber used.

Osmo UV Protection Oil and other reputable brands offer high-quality exterior wood oils that protect against UV rays and water ingress without adding pigment. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for application.

How often:

If you want it to stay its original colour we recommend treating the cladding once or twice a year.

If you're happy for it to weather to silver-grey you can leave it untreated entirely, or apply a clear UV-protective oil every 2–3 years if you want more controlled, even greying.



If you'd like more details on any of the products, we recommend contacting the manufacturers directly.

There are also other suitable options and brands available on the market.

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