Palmer Timber Ltd | A GUIDE TO WESTERN RED CEDAR CLADDINGS

GRADES
Two grades are usually available in the UK.
- No 2 Clear & Better Only
- No 2 Clear & Better (Allowing Max 15% No 4)

DEFECTS
A broad outline of irregularities permitted within these grades are as follows:

No.2
- Three irregularities on face side per 12ft Length
- Four irregularities on the reverse face per 12ft Length
- Knots up to ½″ on face
- Knots up to ¾″ on reverse
- 15% of the No.2 grade may contain four irregularities on the face and soft knots.

No.4
- Four irregularities on face side per 12ft Length
- Characteristics on the reverse slightly in excess of those allowed on the face.
- Knots : Four up to 1″ or equivalent eg Four 1″ or One 4″
- Resin Pockets,Splits,Checks,Warp,Wane and Worm Holes are permitted to some degree.

MOISTURE CONTENT
Western Red Cedar is imported either:

- Kiln Dried (16% Ave with wet spots is Palmers spec)
- Green (No specific moisture content)
- Warning You may also be offered **(Air Dried)** this will have been imported **Green** and termed **Air Dried** because it has been held in stock for a while.

If the term 'Air Dried' is being used as a selling point be sure to ask for a defined moisture content.
Otherwise you may as well specify **Green**.

SPECIFYING THE CORRECT GRADE
As a general rule of thumb the following criteria should be observed.

- **No 2 Clear & Better Only**
Specify this grade if you intend to use specific lengths without joints and you do not wish to do any significant defecting. Eg 100/3.0m lengths used in 3.0m lengths.
- **No 2 Clear & Better (Allowing Max 15% No 4)**
Specify this grade if you intend to use random lengths with random joints in the length and are prepared to defect on site to achieve a clear or nearly clear appearance.
Eg 1000 linier metres supplied in random lengths 1.82m-6.09 metres long.

These guidelines include extracts from BS1186-3 now being quoted as a benchmark quality for claddings in the UK.