

Recommended Cedar Interior Finish Options

There is an abundance of finishes to choose from when finishing Western Red Cedar indoors.
Select from one of the following options:

LET IT WEATHER NATURALLY

- Lowest maintenance option
- Inconsistent coloration over time
(depending on sunlight exposure)
- Does NOT provide protection from minor abrasions

BLEACH

- Accelerates shabby chic weathered look
- More consistent coloring than wood that ages naturally
- May require a coat of clear sealer to maintain desired look

CLEAR WAX

- Ideal for smooth-faced cedar
- Brings out the natural luster of cedar
- Doesn't hold as well on textured wood

CLEAR PLASTICS

- Available in flat (matte), satin (semi-gloss), and gloss finishes
- Specify a non-yellowing formula, unless an amber tint is preferred
- Highly reflective, high-gloss polyurethanes provide most durable finish

DANISH OIL

- Tends to darken wood more than sealants
- Great for traditional palettes
- Easily applied with a brush to textured cedar or smooth cedar

CLEAR LACQUER

- Great option for smooth surfaces
- Not recommended for kitchens and bathrooms
- Best to apply with an air-less sprayer rather than brush.
- For best results, apply two or more coats and sand with the grain in between applications
- The first coat can be a high-gloss lacquer
- For optimal surface durability, follow base coat with one to two coats of matte or satin lacquer
- On smooth cedar, a final coat of wax will impart a rich sheen to the wood

CLEAR VARNISH

- Only recommended for smooth surfaces
- Inevitably adds richer, darker tone to cedar.
- Two coats applied by brush are acceptable for most areas
- Additional coats should be added for kitchen and bathroom use
- Surface may show scratches but these can be touched up with a tinted wax
- Can be scrubbed cleaned with soapy water, or wiped with thinners

VARNISH STAINS

- Adds color pigment
- More challenging to apply than wax stains
- Available in an extensive range of beautiful tones and tints

Once you've selected your choice in finish, it's time to apply your product. Be sure to follow best practices to ensure you achieve the look you're going for. Also, proper application means longer life service and less care & maintenance down the road.