

Wood Roofing

There are two types of residential wood roofing systems. Cedar shakes and cedar shingles. Both are manufactured from western red cedar, cypress, pine and redwood trees. Shakes are split from logs and are thicker at the butt end than shingles; generally one or both surfaces are split to obtain a textured effect. A split and resawn shake has a split face and sawn back. A taper sawn shake has a natural taper and is sawn on both sides. Wood shingles are sawn on both sides and have an even taper and uniform thickness. The biggest difference between the shingles is the irregularity of the shakes. Cedar shingles are cut the same width and same thickness and are uniform across a roof. Cedar shakes tend to be installed with different thicknesses and widths.

Fire Retardant Treated Residential Wood Roofing

Cedar shakes and cedar shingles are available pressure treated with fire retardants and chemical preservatives for increased fire resistance and to prevent premature rot and decay in some climates. Fire retardant cedar shakes and shingles can be used in areas where the building code requires flame-resistant wood roofing materials. Though pressure treated fire retardants have come a long way in recent years, it is important to know that fire retardant treated wood roofing has a class C fire rating.

Wind

Cedar shakes and shingles are the most durable wood roofing materials available on the market today. Wind tests, conducted by the shake and shingle association, reported that cedar wood roofing materials can withstand winds up to 130mph. Western Red Cedar's natural ability to flex allows it to withstand these windy conditions and is extremely effective in heavily affected areas such as Oregon, British Columbia, and Alaska. That includes the high winds and extreme weather often seen here in Colorado.

Wood Roofing Maintenance & Longevity

Maintenance is also something else to consider. Wood shingles and shakes require periodic treatments with preservatives and fungicides in order to keep from drying out, warping, cracking and being attacked by mildew or fungus. With the dry Colorado climate, it is recommended to have this done every three to five years. Material warranties on the residential wood roofing treatments are available from the treatment manufacturers, and you should always ask about the options available to you.