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Cedar Cladding Information & Maintenance Guide

Cedar is a naturally durable timber known for its attractive appearance, distinctive grain and natural resistance to decay. With the correct care and maintenance, cedar cladding can retain its appearance and perform well for many years.

All UK Garden Buildings cedar buildings are coated at the point of manufacture with **Teknos AQUATOP 2600-21, colour TS 15017**. This coating provides the cedar with a flexible, durable, microporous protective film that is resistant to bacterial, mould and UV attack.
As cedar is a natural product, it will change in appearance over time when exposed to different weather conditions. The following guidance will help you understand how to care for and maintain your cedar cladding.

1. Factory-Applied Protective Coating

All our cedar buildings are coated during manufacture with **Teknos AQUATOP 2600-21, TS 15017**.

This specialist coating provides a flexible, durable and microporous protective film designed to protect the cedar against environmental exposure.
The coating offers:

- **UV resistance:** Helps protect the timber against the effects of sunlight and reduces colour deterioration.
- **Mould and bacterial resistance:** Helps protect the coated surface against mould and bacterial attack.
- **Flexible protection:** Allows the coating to accommodate natural timber movement.
- **Microporous properties:** Allows moisture vapour to pass through the coating while helping protect the timber from external moisture.
- **Durability:** Provides a protective finish designed for exterior timber applications.

Although the cedar is factory coated, the protective finish will require ongoing inspection and maintenance to ensure it continues to perform effectively.
Any future maintenance coatings should be compatible with the original Teknos finish. We recommend contacting UK Garden Buildings for the correct coating details before applying additional products.

2. Natural Weathering of Cedar

Cedar naturally changes colour when exposed to sunlight, rain and the surrounding environment.
When first installed, cedar typically has warm reddish-brown tones. Over time, cedar may gradually weather and change in appearance, particularly where the protective coating has deteriorated.
The factory-applied Teknos coating helps reduce the effects of UV exposure and weathering. However, it will not prevent all natural changes indefinitely.

Please be aware:

- Different areas of the building may weather at different rates depending on exposure to sunlight and rain.
- Areas protected from the weather may retain their original colour for longer.
- Natural variations in grain, colour and texture are expected.
- Minor surface cracks, splits and movement may occur as the timber expands and contracts with changes in temperature and moisture.

These are normal characteristics of natural timber and are not necessarily manufacturing defects.

3. Maintaining the Protective Coating

To maintain the appearance and protection of your cedar, we recommend regularly inspecting the factory-applied coating.

Over time, exposure to sunlight, rain and changing temperatures can cause protective finishes to weather.

We recommend:

- Inspecting the cedar at least annually for signs of fading, peeling, cracking or deterioration of the coating.
- Paying particular attention to areas exposed to direct sunlight and prevailing weather.
- Cleaning the cedar before carrying out any maintenance treatment.
- Using a compatible Teknos maintenance coating when recoating is required.
- Following the coating manufacturer's preparation, application and drying instructions.
- Addressing any areas of damaged or deteriorating coating promptly to prevent moisture penetrating the timber.

Important: Do not apply alternative wood treatments, oils, stains or preservatives over the factory-applied coating without first confirming compatibility. Incompatible products may affect the appearance and performance of the protective finish.

4. Cleaning Your Cedar

Regular cleaning will help prevent the build-up of dirt, algae and organic debris, keeping your cedar cladding in good condition.

We recommend:

- Cleaning the cedar periodically using a soft brush or cloth.
- Using clean water and a mild cleaning solution suitable for coated exterior timber where necessary.
- Gently removing dirt, algae and debris from the timber surface.
- Rinsing thoroughly with clean water and allowing the timber to dry naturally.
- Paying particular attention to shaded areas where moisture and algae may accumulate.
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Important: Do not use pressure washers, harsh chemicals, bleach or abrasive cleaning equipment, as these can damage the protective coating and surface of the cedar.

5. Protecting Cedar from Moisture

Although cedar is naturally resistant to decay and benefits from a protective factory-applied coating, prolonged exposure to excessive moisture can cause deterioration over time.

To help protect your cedar cladding:

- Avoid allowing soil, leaves or garden debris to accumulate against the timber.

- Keep plants, shrubs and climbing vegetation away from the cladding to allow adequate airflow.
- Avoid positioning sprinklers where they continuously spray water onto the timber.
- Ensure water can drain freely away from the base of the building.
- Do not stack items directly against the external cladding.
- Regularly check for areas where water may be collecting or remaining trapped.

Good airflow and effective drainage will help the cedar dry naturally following periods of wet weather.

6. Natural Timber Movement
Cedar is a natural material that responds to changes in temperature and humidity.
As a result, the timber may expand during damp conditions and contract during warmer, drier periods.

You may notice:
- Small gaps appearing between boards.
- Minor surface cracks or splits.
- Slight variations in the appearance of individual boards.
- Changes in the timber's texture as it weathers.

The flexible Teknos coating is designed to accommodate normal timber movement.

However, excessive movement or surface damage may affect the coating over time.
These natural timber characteristics do not necessarily indicate a defect.

7. Recoating Your Cedar
To maintain the appearance and protection of your cedar building, the factory-applied coating may require renewal as it ages.

UK Garden Buildings uses **Teknos AQUATOP 2600-21, colour TS 15017**, during manufacture.

Before recoating:
- Inspect the existing coating for any damage or deterioration.
- Thoroughly clean the timber to remove dirt, algae and debris.
- Allow the cedar to dry completely.
- Prepare the existing coating in accordance with Teknos recommendations.
- Ensure the maintenance product is compatible with the original factory-applied finish.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding application and drying times.

The frequency of recoating will depend on the building's location, weather exposure and condition of the existing finish.

We recommend contacting UK Garden Buildings or Teknos for advice on suitable maintenance products and recoating requirements.

8. Recommended Maintenance Schedule

Frequency	Maintenance
Every 3–6 months	Inspect the cedar for dirt, algae and moisture build-up. Clean where necessary.
Every 6 months	Check for any areas where water or debris may be accumulating against the cladding.

Annually	Carry out a thorough inspection of the cedar and the condition of the Teknos protective coating.
As required	Repair or renew the protective coating using a compatible product in accordance with Teknos recommendations.

Buildings in particularly exposed, damp or shaded locations may require more frequent cleaning and maintenance.

9. Five-Year Limited Cedar Cladding Warranty
UK Garden Buildings provides a **5-year limited warranty on cedar cladding** against premature timber decay resulting from manufacturing defects, subject to the building being correctly maintained in accordance with this guide and the applicable warranty terms and conditions.

All cedar buildings are factory coated with Teknos AQUATOP 2600-21, colour TS 15017. Although this coating provides protection against environmental exposure, it requires regular inspection and ongoing maintenance to preserve its effectiveness.

To maintain your cedar cladding and support any warranty claim, we recommend:

- Inspecting the cedar and protective coating at least once every 12 months.
- Cleaning the cladding regularly to prevent the accumulation of dirt, algae and debris.
- Addressing any damaged or deteriorating coating promptly.
- Reapplying a compatible protective coating when required, in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Ensuring adequate airflow around the building and preventing prolonged moisture exposure.
- Retaining records of any maintenance or treatments carried out.

Warranty Exclusions
The limited warranty does not cover:

- Natural weathering, greying, fading or colour variations.
- Minor surface cracks, splits, knots or natural timber movement.
- Normal wear and deterioration of the protective coating.
- Surface mould, algae or staining caused by environmental conditions.
- Damage resulting from inadequate maintenance or failure to address deteriorating protective coatings.
- Damage caused by prolonged exposure to standing water, poor drainage or restricted airflow.
- Damage resulting from the application of unsuitable or incompatible treatments.
- Accidental damage, misuse or unauthorised alterations.

The factory-applied Teknos coating is not guaranteed to remain maintenance-free throughout the five-year warranty period.

The warranty applies to qualifying manufacturing defects and does not guarantee that the cedar will retain its original colour or appearance.

This warranty is provided in addition to, and does not affect, your statutory consumer rights.

10. Important Information
Cedar is a natural timber product and will change in appearance throughout its lifespan. Natural weathering, colour variations, minor surface cracks and timber movement are expected characteristics and do not necessarily indicate a manufacturing fault.

All UK Garden Buildings cedar buildings are supplied with a factory-applied Teknos protective coating. However, this coating is not maintenance-free and will require periodic inspection and appropriate maintenance to preserve its protective properties.
Regular cleaning, adequate airflow and maintenance of the protective coating will help preserve the condition and appearance of your cedar cladding.

Please retain this guide for future reference.

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