



# WHAT TYPE OF CEDAR IS YOUR CONTRACTOR SPECIFYING?

## VIKING ONLY RECOMMENDS WESTERN RED CEDAR AND SPECIFIES THE GRADE



Viking Fence Select Board

- 3/4" thick board or thicker (when available)
- Select tight knot means knot size is limited and sound. Both sides are graded to same standard – same beauty on both sides available in S1S2E (smooth 1 side, smooth 2 edges) – one rough side.
- 6" nominal widths only.
- Best picket on the market – Bar none!



Viking Fence Residential Grade

- This grade meets most all common fencing standards.
- 3/4" Thick board. S1S2E or rough 4-sided.
  - The milled side is the graded side. The reverse side may have characteristics approximately one grade lower than the face.
  - A small percentage of knot holes will be present.
  - Available in 4" and 6" nominal widths



Viking Fence #3 Rustic

- Lumber of this grade is suitable for economy grade fencing and permits all characteristics which do not interfere with use of the piece.
- Knot holes will be present.
- The key characteristic is functionality.
- The best value for residential & commercial.





# WHAT IS JAPANESE CEDAR?

The 2017 Canadian tariffs on all Softwood lumber from Canada allowed lower quality species to be imported into the U.S. from Japan and China One of these new species is Japanese Cedar (aka Sugi). **It is not a Cedar. It is a Cypress Tree. Buyer Beware. Many contractors in the U.S. call it "cedar" and hope their customers don't ask more questions.**

## What is Japanese cedar?

Cryptomeria

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Cryptomeria (literally "hidden parts") is a monotypic genus of conifer in the **cypress** family Cupressaceae, formerly belonging to the family Taxodiaceae. It includes only one species, *Cryptomeria japonica* (syn. *Cupressus japonica* L.f.). It is endemic to Japan, where it is known as Sugi. (Japanese: 杉).[2] **The tree is called Japanese Sugi pine[3] or Japanese red-cedar[4] in English.**

The trees are logged in Japan and then shipped to China for processing. **It competes mainly on price.**

## Key Characteristics

### Large Growth Rings.

- This means this wood is less dimensional stable vs. Western Red Cedar.
- Will be prone to cupping and warping.
- Notice the cupping even before it's installed.



## Less Dimensional Stability & Prone to Mold

- Must be built on a 3 rail fence to limit cupping and warping of pickets.
- Most Japanese/Chinese mills are only making 5/8" thick boards
- The samples that we inspected had mold, a common problem.



## Must be Kiln dried. Quality of Kiln Drying is substandard in China/Japan.

- See the horizontal marks that are evident on these fences?
- They are caused by stickers that separate the layers of wood in their kilns....
- Do you want these horizontal marks permanently on your fence?



Ask your contractor to specify the Species, Grade and Thickness of your fence board. Whether you use Viking Fence or not for your fence project, we want you to be an informed consumer. When you think Fence, think Viking.