



Your Backyard Discovery structure is designed and constructed of quality materials. As with all outdoor products it will weather and wear. To maximize the enjoyment, safety and life of your structure it is important that you properly maintain it.

About Our Wood

Backyard Discovery uses 100% Cedar (C. Lanceolata) wood. Although we take great care in selecting the best quality lumber available, wood is still a product of nature and susceptible to weathering which can change the appearance of your set.

What causes weathering? Does it affect the strength of my product?

One of the main reasons for weathering is the effects of water (moisture); the moisture content of the wood at the surface is different than the interior of the wood. As the climate changes, moisture moves in or out of the wood, causing tension which can result in checking and or warping. You can expect the following due to weathering. These changes will not affect the strength of the product:

1. Checking is surface cracks in the wood along the grain. A post (4" x 4") will experience more checking than a board (1" x 4") because the surface and interior moisture content will vary more widely than in thinner wood.

2. Warping results from any distortion (twisting, cupping) from the original plane of the board and often happens from rapid wetting and drying of the wood.

3. Fading happens as a natural change in the wood color as it is exposed to sun-light and will turn grey over time.

How can I reduce the amount of weathering to wood product?

1. Your wood product is coated with a water-based stain. Sunlight will break down the coating, so we recommend applying a water repellent or stain on a yearly basis (see your local stain and paint supplier for a recommended product). You must apply some type of protection (sealant) to the wood of your product. **Please note this is a requirement of your warranty.** Most weathering is just the normal result of nature and will not affect safety. However if you are concerned that a part has experienced a severe weathering problem please call our customer service department for further assistance.

2. Inspect wood parts monthly. The grain of the wood sometimes will lift in the dry season causing splinters to appear. Light sanding may be necessary to maintain a safe environment. Treating your Product with protection (sealant) after sanding will help prevent severe checking/ splitting and other weather damage.