Cedar Soffit Install & Oil Schedule

Your timeline for a glowing, protected wood porch ceiling

Install a beautiful cedar porch ceiling and keep it protected year after year. Follow this complete sequence from pre-treating raw boards to planning future upkeep.



Key Measurements

1/8 in
Expansion gap at transition seams

45 degrees
Angle to nail through tongue

2 in
Tannin-safe stainless ring-shank nail length

80-90 PSI
Compressor setting for flush nailing

1/4 in
Amount to trim off factory ends

15 min
Wait time before wiping excess oil

Tinted oil beats clear

Lightly pigmented semi-transparent oil provides essential UV protection that clear finishes lack, keeping your cedar glowing honey-brown rather than fading to a weathered gray.

Install & Oil Schedule

1. **Acclimate and Prep** Stack boards for 48 hours, then oil all six sides and allow a full 24-hour dry time.
2. **Install and Vent** Set the continuous vent strip by fascia, then blind-nail boards using a sacrificial block for bowed pieces.
3. **Year-One Inspection** Visually inspect the ceiling for water spots, mildew, or areas where the finish has noticeably thinned.
4. **Maintenance Recoat** Clean with wood brightener and apply a light coat every 3 to 5 years depending on climate.

Adapting to Your Porch

Find your row: **Your specific detail**

Your specific detail	Your pick	Why
South-facing eaves	Recoat earlier than shaded sides	Harsher daily UV rays degrade finish
Recessed lighting	Cut with jigsaw	Seal fresh curved cuts immediately
Uneven wall gaps	Add crown molding	Hides discrepancy while ceiling floats
Black mildew dots	Use oxygen bleach	Kills spores before applying fresh oil

Site Checks & Prep

- [ ] Measure ceiling footprint to calculate the 1:150 net free ventilation requirement.
- [ ] Use 304 or 316 stainless steel fasteners to prevent permanent tannin stains.
- [ ] Test the pigmented finish on a scrap piece to verify color depth.
- [ ] Paint fascia boards crisp white before you begin nailing up cedar planks.
- [ ] Tape heavy canvas drop cloths to the foundation to protect your floors.

Maintenance Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new ceiling, and keep this schedule handy for stress-free maintenance weekends!