

FLAME SPREAD

Shou Sugi Ban Shou sugi ban is an ancient Japanese tradition of burning wood siding that is centuries old. This method was employed when the Japanese discovered that a heavily charred board used for siding was much more resistant to rot and insects, as well as far less likely to ignite when exposed to sparks or flames. The shou sugi ban method was vital in reducing fires but is now primarily used for its aesthetics and improved performance in exterior applications.

Flame Spread Requirements Most code requirements for wood interior finish materials are expressed in terms of flame spread index numbers. These values are determined in a standard fire test which evaluates the surface burning characteristics of a material. Different maximum flame spread indices are permitted depending upon building occupancy, location of the material in the building, and the presence of sprinklers.

Test Method The standard fire test used to evaluate flame spread characteristics of wood building materials in the United States is ASTM E-84, *Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*.

Classifications in Code are:

Class	Flame Spread Range	Smoke Developed Index
I or A	0 – 25	0 – 450
II or B	26 – 75	0 – 450
III or C	76 – 200	0 – 450

Several of our Shou Sugi Ban products have been submitted for certified Flame Spread testing under the ASTM E-84 method. The results have consistently yielded a II or B classification. We are continuing to test our products as required for building code conformance. If you have a pending project that requires certified flame spread testing and it is not in our current list, please contact us at 512.385.1812. Published test results are available on line or by calling us.

Product	Flame Spread	Smoke Developed Index
Gator, Cypress	30	145
Half Gator, Cypress		
Tiger, Cypress	50	175
Tiger Smooth, Cypress		
Texas Barnwood, Cypress		
Burned and Brushed, Redwood		