



The Systems Approach to Log Home Beauty, Protection and Comfort

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1-888-441-1116

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Steels Industrial Products, Ltd., B.C.
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1-800-564-2987

DEAR LOG HOME OWNER:

Thank you for your interest in the PERMA-CHINK SYSTEMS™ **Family of Products**. Whether your home is chinkless, chink-style, round, square, milled or hand crafted, there is something in our **Family of Products** for you. We realize that your dream of a log home ultimately becomes a precious investment. We specialize in keeping your investment looking new and keeping it weather tight and comfortable.

All of our products are easy to apply and safe for you and the environment. Our customer service and products have made us, and kept us, the number one supplier of log home products in the world. Our **Family of Products** is the first choice for thousands of contractors, builders, manufacturers, dealers and homeowners.

Pick up the phone and call the experts at Perma-Chink Systems, Inc., **The Log Home Care and Maintenance Authority**. Our knowledgeable technical service representatives can help through the simplest or the most complex wood care problems.

WE DELIVER TO YOUR JOB SITE. Whenever you need any of our products, we are only a phone call away. For your convenience, we can take payments on account, C.O.D., MASTERCARD, VISA, AMEX, DISCOVER, or pre-payment. Call before noon for **SAME DAY SHIPMENT!**

We also offer **FREE Application Workshops and Seminars**. For more information give us a call or visit us on the web.

www.permachink.com



50 Ways TO PROTECT AND The Log Home

Design Strategies

- 1** You can help or hinder maintenance issues with your home's design. Start by raising the foundation at least 6 inches above grade (some experts recommend as much as 24 inches).
- 2** Employ generous roof over hangs (also known as eaves) in your design to protect log walls and roof timbers from Mother Nature.
- 3** Move water runoff away from your home by specifying gutters and downspouts.
- 4** To resist water and insect damage, don't allow any log floor or wall materials to be exposed to the ground. Use inorganic materials, such as rock, within 12 to 24 inches of the first course of logs.
- 5** Never use wood mulch, pine straw or other ground covers, which will encourage termites and other insects.
- 6** Because log home deterioration tends to happen slowly, keep a maintenance diary to track any problems and your solutions.

Safe Surroundings

- 7** Many maintenance issues will be determined by geography. Like an environmental detective, be on the lookout for signs of insects, wildlife and winged pests.
- 8** Remove stumps and fallen trees within 50 feet of your home, since these can harbor wood-boring insects and a variety of pests.
- 9** If you live in a heavily wooded lot or an area prone to wildfires, extend the clearing around your home to 100 feet.
- 10** Trim back all tree branches that can be a bridge to your home for gnawing pests (like squirrels) and nesting insects.
- 11** Remove large trees that may cause damage to the home if felled by strong winds, snowfall or lightning.
- 12** When you're planting landscaping, keep shrubbery a minimum of 3 to 5 feet from the walls of your home. The goal is to enable air to circulate freely around the home to help keep the logs dry.

Water Protection

- 13** To manage water runoff, make sure the grading around your foundation slopes away from the home – usually a minimum of 6 inches in the first 6 feet away from the foundation.
 - 14** Even if your builder sloped the soil during construction, this grading can settle and become flat or even slope toward your home. Don't use topsoil to increase the slope of the grade, which will only act as sponge. Use rock or gravel instead, which will shed water.
 - 15** If you have installed a sump pump, check it regularly to make sure it will cycle on automatically when needed.
 - 16** Keep gutters and downspouts clear, since debris can cause gutters to overflow. Make sure your downspouts or splash blocks divert rainwater at least 6 to 9 feet away from the home.
 - 17** Ensure sprinkler heads haven't been redirected since last summer. They shouldn't spray your log walls or foundation.
 - 18** Monitor basement windows and window wells. Either one of these, if improperly maintained, can collect and direct water into your basement.
 - 19** Install a French drain to keep water hazards away from your home. These flexible pipes – set into trenches filled with gravel – draw in moisture from the surrounding soil and channel it away.
 - 20** Make sure your home is insured against water damage and remember to specify replacement value of all materials and possessions.
- ## Bug Out
- 21** If you see signs of termites or other wood-boring insects, call a pest control professional. Signs include frass (a sawdust-like substance) and tunnels in the wood.
 - 22** If your home is infested in the winter and fall months with cluster flies, use a vacuum cleaner, pest strips or fly-swatter to

eradicate them. The best method for control is to keep them out by sealing their entrance points with Energy Seal.

- 23** If carpenter ants have set up shop in your home, locate and destroy their nest with Shell-Guard. Call a pest control professional.
- 24** Ambrosia beetles leave white toothpick like extrusions from tiny pinholes in the wood. If they have attacked your home, inject Shell-Guard and seal holes with caulk.

No Rest for Pests

- 25** Woodpeckers can cause damage to log surfaces, chinking, window frames and trim. Make sure that you do not have insects living in areas where woodpeckers strike. Contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.
 - 26** Swallows can damage log homes with their nests and droppings. Because these birds are federally protected, consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit to remove their nests. Installing nylon netting and long nail-like strips (Nixalite) can prevent their return. Scrub affected logs with a mild bleach solution, rinse and reseal.
 - 27** Squirrels can cause damage with their gnawing teeth, so seal downspouts and chimneys with screens. Eliminate tree branches that lead to the roof.
 - 28** Mice can be problematic, especially if you have bird feeders. Move these away from the house, and set mousetraps in the basement, crawl space and attic.
 - 29** While many eat their weight in insects each night, bats also can cause problems for log home owners, damaging wood with their excrement. Install screens over chimneys. Seal all cracks and gaps around the roofline. Install bat houses nearby to draw them away.
- ## Finishing & Sealing New Homes.
- 30** Remove mill glaze, road grime and other foreign substances from the

BEAUTIFY YOUR LOG HOME

Care and Maintenance Guide

logs. You can do this by using a log wash solution (Wood ReNew), sanding, power washing or corn-blasting, depending on the condition of your logs.

31 If you elect to wash your logs with a cleaning solution, always remember to apply cleaners from the bottom of the walls upward, then rinse from the top down. Always make sure to thoroughly rinse cleaning solution off the walls. Follow manufacturer's directions when using cleaners.

32 After waiting for the logs to dry, apply a borate preservative (Shell-Guard or Armor-Guard) and allow to dry. Next apply your interior and exterior stains. (You may want to apply your exterior clear-coats after chinking, to improve appearance and make cleaning easier.) The final step is to apply external sealants and chinking if your house requires it.

33 All log homes will need some amount of sealing – regardless of the log profile or construction style – in between log courses, at corners and around windows and doors. The sealant or chinking you use must be compatible with whatever stain you apply to your log home. If you are not sure, call the manufacturer.

34 To test your finish or stain, use a spray bottle to mist the logs with water. If the water beads up and runs off like a freshly waxed car, then it's doing its job. If logs soak up water, then you'll need another application of finish.

35 How soon you will need to re-apply stains to your log home depends on many variables. Severity of weather exposure, care during preparation and stain application, the quality of the stain used and amount of pigments in the stain are the primary factors. You should expect 4-7 years or more when using LIFE-LINE stains, especially if the house is sheltered from the sun.

36 Graying of wood (especially on the topside of round logs) is caused by UV damage to the wood substrate. To fix this, you must remove the stain to get at the wood underneath, by stripping or sanding. Treatment with

Wood ReNew, OxCon or sanding removes this damage. This UV damage can be significantly delayed and reduced by use of UV-Boost in the first coat of LIFE-LINE finish on the logs.

37 If your finish loses its adhesion, it can start to peel, blister or crack. To avoid this peeling, only use one coat of stain to finish on logs that have more than 20 percent moisture content. (Use a moisture meter to determine this.) Once your logs fall below 19 percent moisture content, you should apply multiple coats as per manufacturer recommendations.

38 Can you feel drafts at corners? Use Energy Seal or Perma-Chink to seal horizontal and corner joinery wherever needed. Seal upward facing checks larger than 1/8" wide with Check Mate. These can trap and hold water and should be weather-tight.

39 Check flashing around the windows to ensure that all water is being channeled out and down the exterior walls. Water stains on the logs or drafts around the windows or doors indicate that air and water is infiltrating your home. The right sealant is the solution for this problem.

40 If blisters appear in chinking that has been applied in direct sun, puncture them with a knife tip and flatten them out against the uncured chinking.

Troubleshooting

41 Is mold/mildew growing on your logs? First determine whether it is on top of the stain or underneath by dabbing it with a swab soaked in chlorine bleach. If it is on top of your finish, it can be washed off the walls using Log Wash. If it is underneath, you must remove the finish in order to remove the fungal stain.

42 Decay-causing fungi occur in wood with moisture contents in excess of 30 percent (the wood-fiber saturation point). Since moisture must be present to give fungi a chance to grow, a good, water-repelling, breathable finish applied to the surface of the logs will combat this.

43 If rot does take root in your logs, drill holes into the affected log, inject Shell-Guard on each side of the problem area and then caulk holes. The borate dissolves and begins to diffuse throughout the wood, killing the fungi on contact.

Solid Roof System

44 Inspect flashing in the valleys of the roof, around the chimney and enclosing plumbing vents to ensure a tight seal against water. Use roof tar to seal any edges that have lifted up.

45 Visit your attic and inspect the underside of your roof system for water stains, as well as matted or mildewed insulation. If you have a cathedral ceiling, look for water stains on the drywall or on the tongue-and-groove paneling.

46 If you have exposed timbers on the underside of your eaves that extend flush with the overhang or protrude past it, the ends of these logs are susceptible to rot. Treat with Shell-Guard then sand and seal with Log End Seal.

47 Did you see ice buildup (ice dams) on your roof last winter? Prevent warm-air build-up in your attic during winter months by increasing the amount of insulation (less heat will enter your attic). Or improve ventilation so warm air escapes quickly.

Interior Work

48 Watch for mold or mildew damage to log walls in high-moisture areas such as bathrooms and laundry rooms.

49 Vertical posts with settling jacks installed at floor level are often used in log homes to shoulder the weight of the second floor or roof systems. Talk to your builder to find out the rate these jacks be lowered.

50 Watch for settlement issues wherever the log walls attach. This can include interior partition walls, floors, cabinets, shower enclosures, stairs, chimneys, porches and garages.



4

Easy Steps to Beautify & Protect Your Dream

From the Log Home Care & Maintenance Authority

All our products are formulated for the *unique* needs of log homes



1 Restore

Restoration products to remove old finishes and make dirty or weathered wood look like new.



2 Preserve

Special purpose preservatives to protect against termites, insects, rot, mold & mildew.



3 Stain

Finishes to protect & bring out the beauty of your decks, interior & exterior walls and millwork.



4 Seal

Flexible sealants for every weather-proofing job around your chinked or chinkless style log home.

Expert advice, applicator referral and great customer service!

"I was amazed to find that not only were the products of high quality, the application technically superior & the results beautiful; I was overwhelmed with the level of personal support extended to my contractor & myself..."

S. Bishop, Montana

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