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Cedar...the best wood around your log home

"Cedar costs more than pine."

Of the many stories we hear while discussing log homes with clients, this comment has to rank near the top.

The cost of Cedar vs. pine varies from company to company. A typical 2000 sf Cedar log home, when completed, should cost only \$5,000-6,000 more than a comparable pine log home. A small difference in price for a big difference in quality.

All things considered, Cedar is the least expensive wood species for your log home.

Cedar twists and warps far less than common whitewoods. It also shrinks and settles less. Cedar has less future maintenance, saving cost now and in the future.

Less future maintenance with Cedar is due in part to Cedar's natural resistance to insects, rot, and decay. There is no need to treat and retreat your home with insecticides and other chemicals.

Cedar has fifty percent better insulation than whitewoods (pine, spruce, etc). This results in lower utility costs.

Cedar's lighter weight allows for easier han-

Cedar - nature's best

100% renewable resource

1 1/2 times the insulation of pine

Lighter weight - faster build time

Less checking, cracking and settling

Resistant to insects - no chemicals

Less log movement - no adjustments

dling and faster build time. And, with it's lighter weight, shipping is on one truck rather than two, which cuts freight in half.

If anyone tells you that whitewoods are just as good as Cedar, then ask what they recommend for use as roof fascia. If the answer is Cedar (which is the best choice due to weather resistance), then you might have "your final answer".

For more information about Cedar, check out our website at www.logs.net or better yet, check for yourself by searching the web for "incense cedar".

New Look, Improved Tools at www.logs.net

The next-generation Colorado LogSystems website is now open for business.

See the log panel at left for a look at our new navigation buttons from our updated website. This is just a small part of the new improvements. You can see more changes and updates at www.logs.net.

We will continue to add new content. Be sure and bookmark www.logs.net and visit us often for all your log home information.

Inside this issue:

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Check out the links and add your comments at the "Give website feedback" button. Your feedback will help create the best, most informative log home site on the internet.

Tell us what you want to see, and we'll do our best to add those features. Colorado LogSystems appreciates your ideas and input.

The "floor plans" section offers you many options. Remember Colorado LogSystems does on-site custom planning and design.

Special items of interest:

- New log homes starting in Murphy & Franklin, NC
- Construction continues in Durango & South Fork, CO
- Log homes for sale in Hayesville, NC & Ellijay, GA
- Starting soon: Julian CA, Logan, UT & Durango, CO
- Your log home is next - where do you start?

It's just a start...

Like so many others, it's Ralph and Barbara Bruno's last home.

That's a big theme with most of our clients. "We've dreamed about owning our log home and now it's time. This is going to be our last home."

Colorado LogSystems takes special interest in getting your dreams down on paper. That's one reason we offer pre-design site visits and personalized planning to help with your custom design.

A lot of planning went into the log home you see being built in the photo at right. The better the planning is, the better the home will be.

Building their log home in Franklin, NC, while still working in Naples, FL, requires good communication with their general contractor. Phone and email help. They have and will continue to visit the construction site as often as possible to make key decisions about their log home.

With the start of the Bruno's log home in Franklin, they join the ranks of those who can finally say, "We Did It".

With the right planning, the right log home package and the right builder, the Bruno's dream is becoming a reality.

Do you have your land and an idea in mind, but don't know what steps to take next? Colorado LogSystems offers complete services from pre-design site visit to visiting with your general contractor or helping you find the right contractor.

Are you ready to design and build your log home dream? "Your design - your way!"



Bruno site near Franklin, NC

The outside story... is best told from the inside!

Colorado LogSystems is frequently asked, "Do you assemble the log home shell and then disassemble it before you ship it?"

Unlike other log home companies that need to pre-fit their logs, Colorado LogSystems uses a computer generated "log layout and cut sheet". (See the illustration at right for an example.)

Colorado LogSystems saves you substantial cost by not having to embed additional labor into your package for pre-stack, un-stack and re-stack. You have one labor on your site vs. three separate labor costs with other log companies.

With precision pre-cut logs you also save over the labor cost of having the logs cut on-site and the potential of on-site cut errors and waste. Our plant personnel optimize the yield of every log to maximize use and minimize waste, saving both material cost and excess jobsite labor.

Please note that the layouts shown are for upper walls. Colorado LogSystems believes that a log home should be log on both the main and upper floors. In addition, your home builds faster and is better insulated when you have log walls on both levels.

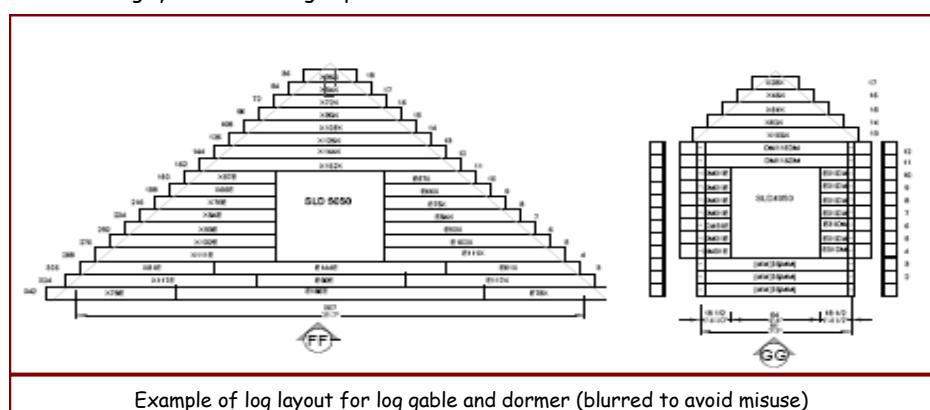
When you're ready to design and build your dream log home, trust the team at Colorado LogSystems. You'll get precision

pre-cut full logs delivered to your site and then assembled on your foundation.

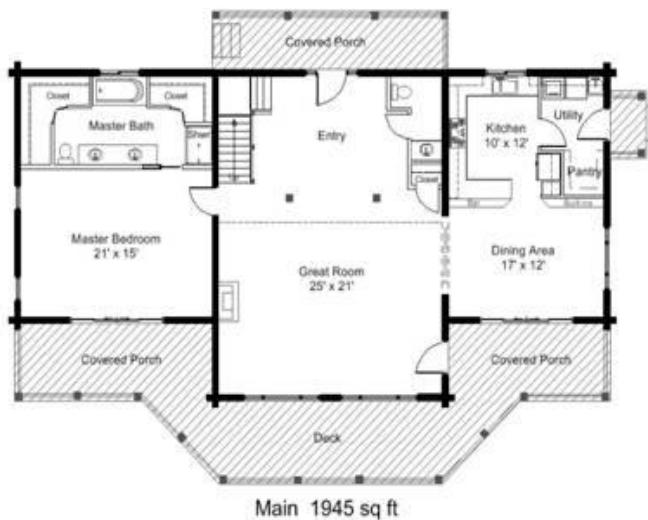
"Your home - your way."

That's the way we do business at Colorado LogSystems.

Let's visit about your log home design. We're here seven days a week to help. Call us soon.



Another start in North Carolina



This one "just started" in late August. The drawing above shows the floor plan. We'll have more photos in the next newsletter. This Murphy, NC, log home is for the Hlavkas of Fairfax, VA.

Where do we start?

Land comes first. Then talk with a log home designer - you thought builder, right? You need a plan before you approach a builder.

Not sure what you can do on your property? Here's a thought: Ask your log home rep to visit your property and help you decide.

"Should I use an architect?" Not unless you just want to spend extra money. Any

good log home company will design your log home for you. They may charge for the service, but they should apply those costs to the final log purchase. (CLSI will.)

"What if I'm not sure which log company to use?" Pick your favorite three companies, and have the best of the three do your plans. Then have all three bid your basic log home package.

Your chance is then one in three that your

money will go directly to your log package. Either way, it's far less money than you would have to pay for an architect.

Three Log Questions:

What species of wood and why?

(without saying "all logs are the same")

What corner system and lateral seal?

(without using the words caulk or chink)

How is log movement addressed?

(don't fall for the "our logs don't settle" routine)

Why aren't all log companies' log packages the same?

It's hard to compare "apples to apples" in the log home industry. (Have you ever actually tried comparing "apples" at two different stores?) Every log company seems to have their method to give you the best log home package.

Colorado LogSystems recommends purchasing items related to log from a log company. Logs come from a log company and lumber comes from a lumber yard.

Log home companies that sell "complete

packages" buy lumber from a lumber supplier and add their markup. Why not buy

Comparisons that really matter:

Logs - pre-cut, upper & main

Wood species - efficiency, durability

Air seal - permanence, performance

Fastening system - strength, pre-drilled

Windows & doors - quality, efficiency

Window/door buck system - movement

Design & Construction plans - included

On site expertise - 2-day minimum

your lumber directly from the lumber supplier when you need it and save both the extra markup and the additional interest on your construction loan? You wouldn't buy cabinets and appliances from a log company, would you?

Then it follows that you can save money by purchasing your other building materials locally and on an as-needed basis.

Compare the quality and not just the price of the "apples"!



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Custom Cedar Log Homes

"Your Home - Your Way"

www.logs.net

Air Tight by Design vs. air tight by maintenance

Colorado LogSystems' air and moisture seal is an integral part of our log home system. If you have a great log (Cedar) and a great window and door (Eagle), then all you need is an incredible seal system (ButyLog).

Our logs have the "look" of Swedish cope saddle notch (see "A" on drawing). That's where the similarity stops.

The ButyLog is placed on both sides of the wide tongue (see "B" on drawing). This creates a 5" air seal barrier between the interior and exterior air temperatures.

The horizontal interface between logs is one of the "energy bandits" in a log home. In a Colorado LogSystems' log wall that interface area is nearly 6" in width.

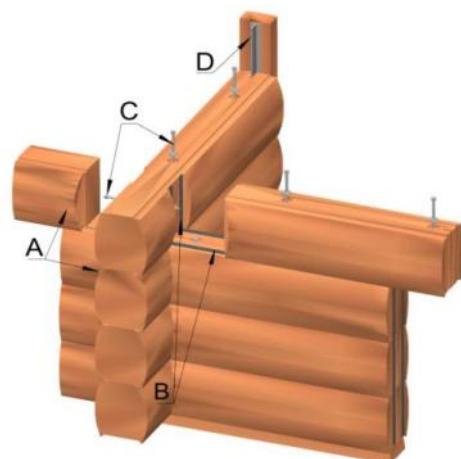
ButyLog is also used at all vertical joints (see "B" on drawing). The Colorado Corner is mortise and tenon, not butt and pass, with a 12" lag (see "C" on drawing) placed horizontally to secure the tenon into the mortise at all corners.

Colorado LogSystems uses 12" lags (see "C" on drawing) to secure logs together. This allows for a much tighter fit between individual log courses. No other fastening system has the "pull down" of lags. This helps to minimize the effects of shrinkage and settling.

All logs (and all woods) move. Colorado LogSystems uses cedar bucks (see "D" on drawing) with aluminum "t-channel" to allow for that movement. These bucks allow the logs to move up and down without affecting the window or door operation. The window and door trim is applied to the buck and not to the log. This creates a "unit" around which the logs can move, independent of the window or door.

Your Colorado LogSystems' log home will be low maintenance and energy efficient for centuries to come.

Ask for a demonstration of the Colorado Corner and of the Colorado "LogSystem".



Colorado Corner - "get into the corner"

Remember

Caulk is a "maintenance" product.

If you don't caulk your log home,
you'll never have to re-caulk your log home!
(Dumb, but true)