



## Cedar...the best wood around your log home

**"Cedar is a great wood but it costs more, right?"**

If anyone tells you that whitewoods are just as good as Cedar, then ask what they recommend for roof fascia. If their answer is Cedar (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](http://www.logs.net) or better yet, check for yourself with a web search for "incense cedar".

Of the many stories and questions 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 \$6,000-7,000\* 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. It twists and warps far less than common whitewoods. Cedar also shrinks and settles less. Cedar has less future maintenance, saving cost now and in the future.

Less future maintenance with a Cedar Log Home 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 is a 50% better insulator than whitewood (pine, spruce, etc). This results in lower utility costs. Cedar's lighter weight allows for easier handling and faster build time. And, with lighter weight, shipping is on 1 truck rather than 2, which cuts freight in half.

\*As an example - the difference between Cedar and pine for a 1932 sf Enchanted Forest plan is \$7,035!

### 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

## Air Tight by Design vs. air tight by "maintenance" (who wants maintenance?)

Cedar 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 Cedar LogSystems' log wall that interface area is nearly 6" in width.

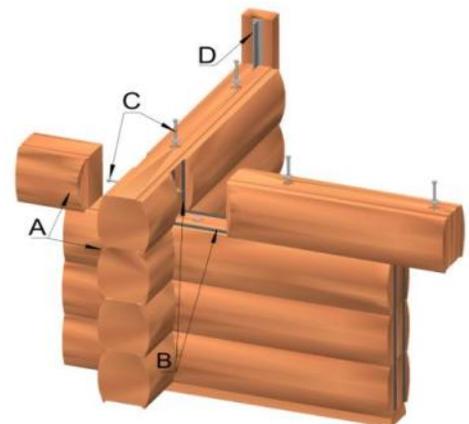
ButyLog® is also used at all vertical joints (see "B" on drawing). The Colorado Corner is mortise and tenon, not butt and pass, with an 8" Assy® Fastener (see "C" on drawing) placed horizontally to secure the tenon into the mortise at all corners.

Cedar LogSystems uses 12" Assy® Fasteners (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 the Assy® Fastener. This helps to minimize the effects of shrinkage and settling.

All logs (all wood) move. Cedar 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 is not attached to the log. This creates a "unit" around which the logs can move, independent of the window or door unit.

Your Cedar 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 Cedar "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)

## Time (Timeline) To Get Serious? Mike Craig, Senior CAD Designer, CLSI

You've spent years imagining, researching, looking through log home magazines, and sketching out floor plans. It's great fun and a great idea. But, when it's time to get serious, put the plan in motion, and put your money where your dreams are, where do you start? The answer can be a bit complex.

Here's a quick overview of the order and rough timelines for the major elements in the process.

**Land** Of course you really need to know where the home will sit before you select a plan or design it (see "That Perfect Spot" in our Spring Newsletter). *Our on-site design service includes a visit by one of our designers to your property along with recommendations for placement, orientation, and site-specific design considerations.*

**Select log home company (several months)** Very important: select your log home company for the right reasons. Don't shop for the ideal floor plan - look for the ideal log, log system, reputation and value. *This is where Cedar LogSystems really shines.* Full-service log home companies will help you design the ideal plan for your lifestyle, land and



To quote a famous "Yankee"  
"If you don't know where you're going,  
you'll end up somewhere else!"  
Your MAP comes from your log home company!

budget. First find the right log home company, then find the right plan.

**Plans (2 weeks to 2 months)** This element often goes hand-in-hand with step 2. Length of time depends on how much thought you've put into your plan. Are you starting with our "optimized floorplans", customizing, or full custom design. How many changes will you make after the initial drawings?

*The good news is we can customize any of our optimized floorplans or start from scratch without additional cost or any significant delay. We can produce preliminary drawings in 10-14 days and final construction drawings almost as quickly.*

### Select a Builder (2 weeks to 2 months)

This process should only begin after you have 1/4" scale plans in your hand along with the cost of your log package and a rough idea of the finishes you'll want (flooring, cabinets, appliances, etc). Otherwise, the best you'll get for your total cost estimate is a rough "per-square-foot" cost that will be grossly off (probably on the low side). Remember, if you're building in an area with harsh winters, good builders will get booked up early for the other 3 seasons. *Cedar LogSystems will help with builder selection.*

**Engineering (1 week to 1 month)** Many areas require a structural engineer stamp on home plans (see article below). In extreme cases, this might take a couple of months. *Cedar LogSystems will modify your construction drawings to meet local engineering requirements as part of our services.* (See "Time" on page 3)

## Structural Engineering: Assurance is Your Insurance

Brian J. Sielaff, P.E., Tamarack Grove, PLLC

The common goal on any log home project is to have an experience built on trust and understanding. From the beginning, there are decisions that need to be made in building a log home structure. Often referred to as the 'process', you must decide on several key items including: budget, the log home style, floor plans and square footages, what log company to use and what general contractor. One often overlooked decision in this process is the need for a *structural engineering design and review.*

Structural engineering of your log home plans ensures that all elements of your final construction documents are well coordinated and include:

- properly sized structural components
- correct foundations and retaining walls
- properly designed connections & details
- verification of lateral & wind loads

Often the question is asked, "When is struc-

tural engineering required for my log home?" Based on where you are building, some local building departments and/or local jurisdictions will require professional structural engineering construction documents and calculations, stamped and signed by a licensed professional engineer. These documents include your foundation plan, floor framing plans, roof framing plan, building sections, structural details, general structural notes and structural calculations.

A structural engineer can work with your local jurisdiction to help streamline the 'process' and obtain a timely building permit, thus allowing you, your log company and your contractor to begin work. A structural engineer can be available through the construction process to answer or clarify any questions that may arise during construction.

Whether or not it is required, it is highly recommended to consult with a licensed professional structural engineer on any log home structure that you build.

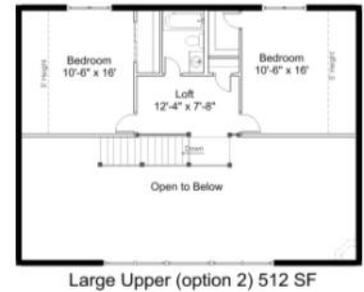
Several factors that would require or cause recommendation for structural engineering include, but are not limited to:

- high snow load area
- high wind or earthquake zone
- complexity of your plans and elevations (i.e. a prow front, large windows or openings)
- column/post spacing, beam/girder spans
- requirement for building permit
- specific site requirements for you log home (i.e. flat or sloped, hillside, soil bearing)

The common goal for any structural engineer is to safeguard life, health, and property through proper design and implementation.

When put into perspective structural engineering fees are typically less than 1% of your overall construction budget. For the quality assurance you receive and the protection of your life-long investment, that makes for a good return on investment.

## The Blue Mesa - A concept who's time is now!

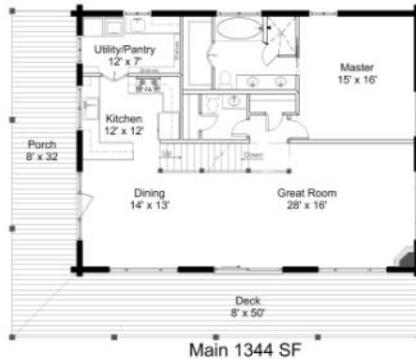


At 1856 sf the "Blue Mesa" is an easy on the eyes, easy on the budget, easy to build, spacious and comfortable Cedar log home. The design is a large, well-designed home with no wasted space.

The construction is straight-forward with only four corners and four walls. There are no dormers upstairs, yet enough space for either a master bedroom and loft or 2 bedrooms.

And, as always, our designers can make any changes to give this design all your "personal" touches! Call today for a "custom fitting"!

800.600.5647 ext 50 (east) or ext 80 (west)



**"Your home, your way!"**

## Musings - continued stories & other thoughts

**Time (Timeline)** Con't from page 2

**Permits (2 weeks to 3 months)** This element varies widely. Some areas require very little time and paperwork, while others can be quite tedious and time-consuming. Speak with your local building authority to get an idea of typical lead times. In addition to the home building permit, you may also need to consider permits for a well and septic system as well as HOA approval, which might take several months.

**Construction (4 to 8 months)** The main factors here will be the builder's competence, home size and the home site difficulty factor (accessibility issues).

**It's time to get serious!** In an ideal world, you could be moving into your new log home in six months. More typically, the process takes nine months or longer. The earlier you get plans done and get them to a builder, the better. Consider your timeline, factor in weather, and engage your builder early!

### A Calendar of Events or An Event Filled Calendar!

**Where is a log home designer?  
When I actually need one!**

Jan 15-22 N. GA & W. NC  
Jan 25-29 S. CA  
Feb 7-14 Central FL  
March 2-10 Central FL  
Anytime by App't At your land!

### Log Home Shows

Atlanta, GA Jan 18-20  
Fredericksburg, VA (call first)  
Orlando, FL March 7-9

**This IS important enough to  
Repeat (again & again!)  
The \$7,000 Advantage!**

After hearing stories of Cedar costing 25-40% more, it's time to set things straight!

A Cedar log home is obviously better! Why else would the other log companies charge a premium for Cedar? The issue is how much more. The answer will surprise you.

If you take an average sized log home - (an Enchanted Forest at 1932 sf) you would need 14,070 BF of 8" logs (board footage is the wood volume measurement) to build your log home.

At \$500/MBF more for Cedar (actual mill cost difference) Cedar is \$7,035 more, or about 2-2.5% of your total log home cost. Money well spent! Any questions?

**CEDAR is the \$7000 Advantage!**

# CEDAR LOG SYSTEMS

800.600.5647

www.logs.net

info@logs.net

## Food for Thought!

Many people ask "when is the best time to plan and build my dream log home?"

Simple Answer? *Now* rather than later.

Why? All things being equal(ly unknown), it is more likely prices will go up than down. Interest rates will go up and not down. The older you get, the more likely you are to retire! It beats all other options!

Wouldn't it be nice to move into the *dream* log home that you've always *imagined*?

Happily Ever After... starts *now*!

Tickets are selling fast!

A phone call will jump start your future!

Direct comments to: 800.600.5647, x 99

## "But you can't build in bad weather" (and other whines!)



Kent, England, 2000

The next time anyone tells you can only build a log home at certain times of the year... tell them to "stick an umbrella in it!" Better yet, just put a huge umbrella over it!

When we were stacking this log home in Seven Oaks, Kent (UK) it rained for 30 days and 30 nights. (I know, the record is 40, but you weren't there for either one!) And the same goes for rain, sleet, snow or ice - if the postman can deliver in inclement weather, so can we!



Kent, England, 2007

## "California Dreamin' (or yes, we work in December, and in snow!)"

The log home shown at right was started on December 18, 2007 with snow around the foundation. Building will continue through the winter.



Julian, CA, 2007

If you get your foundation down before the frost sets in, you would be surprised how much can be done.

Ask questions, get answers - the rights answers!  
We're here to help.



Lake Arrowhead, Dec 18, 2007