



www.logs.net info@logs.net

800.600.5647

California Building Code Recognizes Log Walls

Years of bad weather - now the new 2007 California Building Code became effective in January 2008. Updated regulations require building products to comply with very specific standards. Log walls are approved as an exterior wall which "provides protection from the intrusion of flames and embers in accordance with standard SFM 12-7A-1."

Those of us who understand and love log homes know the efficiency and durability of solid log walls. California is one of the most difficult and regulated states to build in (sorry Arnie, we still love your movies, but the truth is the truth). Now California has put its official stamp of approval on log walls in its new building code.



This S California log home nearing completion has active solar and wind power.

Solar Hot Water - Rebates

You can now earn up to \$2,000 in rebates for installing a solar domestic hot water system in Colorado (check your state for details). Using such a system can also add up to a 50-80% reduction on your water heating bill.

Domestic hot water systems use solar energy to pre-heat water before it enters your water heater. The warmer the water from the solar heater, the less conventional fuel it will take to heat your water.

Learn more at colorado.gov/energy.

ButyLog - the Best Seal for Your Log Home (by Caleb Huftalin, N GA Sales Associate)



The inside story - a very tight corner

When it comes to building a comfortable and durable log home, the importance of your seal system is second only to the type of log you choose. The significance is obvious,

especially if you've ever seen a log cabin built more than a few decades ago. In those days, the large horizontal gaps seen between the logs were filled with a mortar-like chinking material.

Today, the technology for log home manufacturing, including improved sealing systems, is something you cannot afford to

ignore. Caulk, foam, fiberglass insulation and rubber gaskets are some of materials used to seal modern log homes.

Over time, these will degrade, break down or lose the ability to expand and contract with the logs. When inferior seals fail, the dreaded solution is to dig out your caulk gun and get to work before too much air or water infiltrates your living space. Wouldn't it be prudent to just start with a superior seal system?

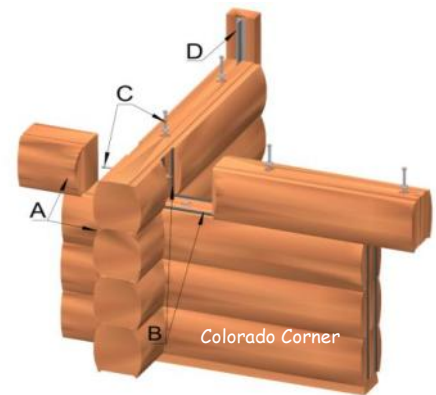
Cedar LogSystems uses "ButyLog". This gray, permanently soft, tacky sealant is specifically designed for use in all tongue and groove joints, end joints and corner mortises as well as around windows and doors (see "B" in illustration).

What makes it the best log sealant available? ButyLog contains a high percentage of virgin butyl rubber.

It has very high cohesion strength and will expand and contract with your log home while maintaining a constant seal.

ButyLog can stretch 4 times its original thickness without seal failure. Try that with caulk, foam, or fiberglass insulation.

The bottom line? Using ButyLog on all sealing surfaces means a zero maintenance, permanent weather-tight log home.



For additional information please contact our offices at 800.600.5647

Logs are Logs... Right? Size does matter! (by Mike Craig, senior CAD designer)

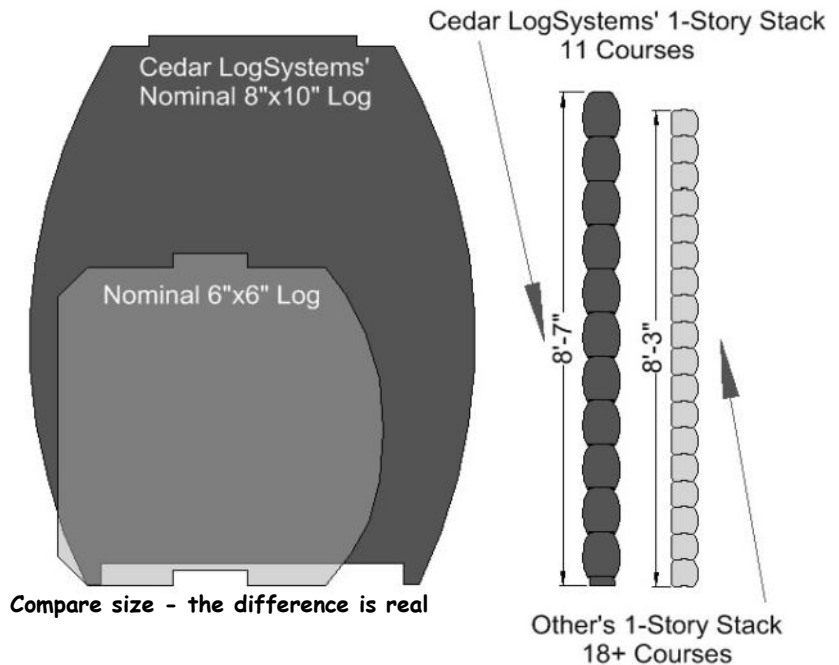
Many people who dream and plan for their log home give scant consideration to what logs they'll use. Logs provide the structure for their home, shield them from the elements, and add to (or detract from) the durability and beauty of the home. Despite all this, people who would never dream of letting their builder choose appliances or bathroom fixtures for their home will trust him to choose their logs. The reason for this may stem from a lack of familiarity with logs. We all have a "comfort level" choosing appliances and cabinets, but when it comes to logs, that's seldom the case. Education helps the log home owner make an informed decision that will pay dividends for years to come.

Ask questions until you have answers that make sense to you.

The first consideration that affects the look, build-ability, comfort, and stability of your log home is the size (and species) of the logs. Log height affects the look of your home, both on the outside and inside, and the logs should fit the scale of your home. Many milled logs are only six or eight inches in height. This results in what I would call the "toothpick" effect. A two-story house with log gable ends is 23 feet in height. That requires 50+ courses of 6-inch logs and will definitely make your house look like it's made of "toothpicks". Not only is the appearance affected, but more courses mean more labor to build, more seal points and potentially a less stable wall.

Log width will impact your home's overall energy efficiency. Thermal mass is a characteristic of log structures, making them better at maintaining a constant temperature, and this too is enhanced by a thicker log. A wider log will also be more structurally stable and also make

Cedar
the best wood to have around your home
LogSystems
the best seal and corner system, period



construction easier and faster. Whatever a log's R-value is, more thickness means greater resistance to heat transfer.

Of course the "bigger is better" idea can be carried to an extreme. Large logs can actually overwhelm the scale of the house and detract from its appeal. Also, logs that are large (or heavy) require special equipment and slow down construction as well as increase cost.

Cedar LogSystems logs are 8" x 10". This dimension will suit the scale of almost any log home. CLS Cedar logs provide the

same energy efficiency as 12-inch wide pine or whitewood. Cedar has less weight by volume, which means two people can carry any log in the house.

While appliances, bathroom fixtures, and door handles may be easier to choose than logs, nothing is more important than what's around your home. Appliances, cabinets and carpet can be replaced, but trying to change out a solid log wall later is not an option. Think and choose wisely, and your home will last many lifetimes.

Plant Expansion
Colorado Springs
Now in Process!

Log Home Shows

Denver, CO - Sept 26-28

Chantilly, VA - Oct 24-26

Tampa, FL - Nov 14-16

Another "Fast" Start in Colorado (and a great surprise in the sky)



First things first - bundled (by course), wrapped (of course) and ready



Day one Monday - before the rain (look to the right!)



Window & door openings (with measuring spacer)



Day 2.1 (Wednesday morning)



The "Visitor." They flew by Monday and again on Wednesday. Wednesday was a close pass and they "rocked right" for a better look at the log home as they flew low over us. (The ground camera person was a bit slow - startled by the sound, I would guess.)

And yes, that is a B-1! Fly by anytime.

We like the "sound of freedom". Thanks to everyone serving in the military.

Why Colorado Cedar LogSystems?

A Technical Consumer's View

By Richard H. Collier, Ph.D.

Are all logs suppliers the same? Does wood species matter? How are corners made air tight? What effect will corner and sealing technology have on air tightness over time? These were a few of the many questions I had as my wife and I began the process of choosing a log supplier for our new log home.

I spent a few weeks of evenings researching the subject. I quickly found three types of companies: those that supply plan catalogs, those that supply materials for homes built of log or wood siding over conventional framing, and those that supply actual logs for a log home, the latter being our area of interest.

I also quickly learned that each wood species has distinct characteristics. For our home in the mountains of southern Colorado, insulation value was a major concern. From what I learned, no species was better than air dried western cedar in that regard. This species is also more resistant to insects and decay than other popular species and is lighter than pine, fir, and cypress.

There are almost as many ways to build a corner in a log home as there are log suppliers. I looked for the best technology to deal with a long-standing concern: making corners air tight and keeping them so. I found the "Colorado Corner" to be the best technology of any of the more than twenty systems I investigated. Each course of cedar logs is firmly attached to the previous course with lag screws that seat fully in the course below, allowing each course to settle independently of the other while maintaining firm attachment between the courses. The use of butyl rubber sealant, which remains pliable over a wide temperature range over many years seemed an excellent choice.

But the feature that sold me most is the mortise and tenon corner design with a horizontal lag screw through the mortise and into the tenon to create a tight, sealed, square corner that adds strength and function. Log end caps cover the outside mortise and lag screw head to give the appearance of a full lap joint corner with much superior strength and air tightness. In my opinion, the Colorado Corner piece is not just a cosmetic device; it is the crown of the best engineered corner design in the log home industry.

Editors Note: Richard and his wife, Linda, are having their dream log home built in San Luis, CO. They are moving from Valdosta, GA, but, as Dick quickly points out, that is not where they are from (he's from Alabama). More photos next issue.



Cedar LogSystems, Inc
PO Box 25250
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Food for Thought!

Direct comments to: 800.600.5647 x99

The good news - We've finally moved! The plant is now in Colorado Springs. That's the good news.

The bad news - the newsletter is late and some of the content is reprinted from previous issues. So if you're having "déjà vu, all over again" you know why.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions for articles you would like included in the winter issue, please let us know soon.

And if your plans include a visit to the beautiful Colorado Springs, let us know (ahead of time, please) and we'll do our best to arrange a tour of our new facility.

Food for Thought!

Log Homes - Custom Design - Custom Build - Nationwide

If it's not **Cedar...** it's just another log!

Military, Police, Firefighter...

If you've visited with Cedar LogSystems at a log home show, you've seen our log home displays that feature special offers for military, police, firefighters, and life NRA members.

It's our way of saying thank you for what you do. Maybe you'd like Aspen in your great room ceiling or you'd like Cedar decking for your porch and deck. We may just add that Aspen or Cedar decking free of charge. What's in the bonus package depends on the size and configuration of your log home plan.

We salute you and all you do to protect this great country of ours. And the bonus wood product we ship with your new home is our way of saying "job well done". Many thanks to all who serve and to their families.

On-Site Visits (and why they're so important)

At Cedar LogSystems, we believe that in order to help you develop the best log home plan for your lifestyle and your land, we need to "see what you see". In other words, how can we help you realize your dreams if we don't know what your dreams are?

Taking the time to visit with you on your land and sitting down and designing for your lifestyle is just part of the many "extras" that are standard when you allow Cedar LogSystems to help you design "Your home - Your way".

Give us a call at 800.600.5647 to schedule your personal design consultation. Your dream, our design team. It starts with a call. It's your dream, why not start today?

Where are the floor plans?*

Everyone wants to see more floor plans.

Guess what? The best floor plan for you is in your head (or in your wife's head if you're married).

Why not sit down with one of our designers and together plan "Your home, your way"?

(*Next issue we'll try for more plans. Meanwhile, visit our website at: www.logs.net)