

# HANDLING AND INSTALLATION GUIDELINES FOR LOG CABIN SIDING

**Log Cabin Siding is manufactured from kiln-dried wood to minimize the effects of swelling and shrinking. As with any natural siding product, care in handling and installation will deliver the best results.**

**To ensure your complete satisfaction with the Log Cabin Siding, we recommend the following:**

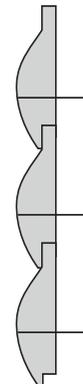
- Log Cabin Siding should be preconditioned to the environment in which it will be used. For interior applications, precondition the material for 10 days to 2 weeks by storing it in the room where it will be installed. For exterior applications, precondition and install when the material is at a climatic balance - not extreme weather.
- As with any natural wood siding, Log Cabin Siding should be installed over a weather-resistant barrier, regardless of the sheathing material. A weather-resistant barrier is a vapor-permeable sheathing wrap that resists any liquid that gets behind the siding, and acts as a "drainage plane." In order for the barrier to function as a drainage plane, sheathing wrap should have an air gap between the wrap and the siding. Typically a 1/8" to 1/2" space between the siding and sheathing wrap is recommended.
- Caulk where siding abuts to openings or trim.
- The correct nails are essential to the proper application of Log Cabin Siding. Stainless steel nails are best. Hot-dipped galvanized nails can be used, but they must be top-quality nails, or they could result in discoloration. The degree of protective coating may vary. Use ring or spiral-threaded nail shanks, which will increase the holding power. Nails with smooth shanks will loosen as siding expands and contracts under the extremes of changes in temperature and humidity. Do not use staples.
- The appropriate nailing practice is vital. The recommended penetration into studs or blocking is 1-1/2" inches. Log Cabin Siding is 1-1/2" at its thickest point, so it will require a 3" nail. As a general rule, each piece of siding is nailed independently of its neighboring pieces. Do not nail through two overlapping pieces of siding with the same nail, as this will restrict the natural movement of the siding and cause problems. Nail joints into studs or blocking members. Drive nails carefully. Hand nailing is preferred over pneumatic nailing because there is more control of placement and driving force. Nails should be snug, but not overdriven. Predrilling near the ends will help reduce splitting. Place nails at the thickest point of the Log Cabin Siding. See example at right.
- Prior to installation, prime or prefinish all siding surfaces (faces, edges, ends and back side) after preconditioning. This reduces the appearance of unfinished lines resulting from any further shrinkage that may occur after installation and minimizes the potential for cupping and splitting.
- When choosing a finish, consider the desired appearance, preparation and maintenance requirements, the location of the structure and the current conditions of the siding. Leaving the siding unfinished in hopes of a weathered appearance is not recommended. Siding without a finish weathers unevenly and is prone to surface mold and moisture problems such as cupping or splitting. The recommended method for applying most finishes is with a brush, which usually places more finish on the wood surface and serves to work the finish around the rough wood fibers.
- Do not use varnishes, lacquers or other clear film forming finishes on exposed wood. These finishes become brittle, allow for UV degradation, can crack and peel, and can be difficult to remove. Also, avoid pure linseed oil and linseed oil/turpentine mixtures. Such finishes attract dirt and are prone to mildew.



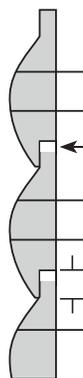
## Log Cabin Siding

Log Cabin Siding is 1-1/2" thick at its thickest point. Ideally suited to informal buildings in rustic settings. The pattern may be milled from appearance grades (commons) or dimension grades (2x material). Allows for 1/2" overlap, including an approximate 1/8" gap. Do not nail through overlapping pieces. Horizontal or vertical applications.

**Sizes:** 1-1/2"x6', 1-1/2"x8', 1-1/2"x10', 1-1/2"x12'



Use one siding or box nail to face nail once per bearing, 1-1/2" up from bottom edge.



Use two siding or box nails, 3-4" apart, per bearing to face nail.

Approximate 1/8" gap for dry material 8" and wider

1/2" - full depth of rabbet

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