



Hearthstone Log Homes

Perma-Chink Systems News

Fall Issue

The Wood Home Care and Maintenance Authority

Reminders:



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Fall Log Home Maintenance Tips

Fall maintenance is much like spring house-cleaning, but more preventative and less “cleaning.” And it’s much easier to do it now rather than wait till the weather turns nasty.

Fall means leaves—and plenty of them. You will certainly need to clean out your gutters and make sure that the drainage area around the downspout is functioning properly as well. The roof area should also be checked for any leaks around the flashing at the chimney and around the vents for the heating or sewer system.

While inspecting the roof area it’s important to check for any holes or access spots where squirrels, raccoons or bats can enter your home and make themselves a vacation home for the winter. Clear away all debris from around the foundation of the house.

Caulking around all exterior areas is a must. You probably won’t find but a few areas where the caulk needs replacing, and it’s not a big job to replace old caulking with a fresh bead where needed. Weather stripping also should be examined and replaced if you find any that is curled or coming loose. Neither the caulking nor weather stripping replacement is a heavy job. It just takes some care and close examination. This can usually be done in a day for a moderate-sized home.

Your exterior walls should get a good cleaning. In addition to making your home look great, a wash-down with Log Wash will get rid of the dust, dirt and grime. Freezing weather is especially hard on log exteriors and

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Fall Log Home Maintenance Tips

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a little bit of upkeep now may prevent costly repairs next spring.

Once your walls are clean, go around your home looking for signs of worn stain and failing sealant. If the stain looks faded, you should consider applying another coat of *Lifeline* stain and *Lifeline Advance* topcoat. **Don't forget, the topcoat is an integral part of the system and will help protect your home and extend the life of your stain.**

While you are at it look for any new checks that may have opened up, especially on the top half of round logs where water can enter. Our *Check Mate 2* comes in a variety of colors and is the perfect solution for closing up those potentially damaging checks.

Properly sealed joints and gaps go a long way in preventing cold drafts during the winter months. In these days of rapidly rising fuel prices it is important to keep cold air from entering your home. *Energy Seal* is specifically designed for this purpose. Pay special attention to places where wood meets masonry. Reseal with *Energy Seal*. In addition to saving you money on heating bills, it will help to keep your home warm and comfortable.



The *Energy Seal*® you purchased may also qualify you for energy tax credits. Check with your local tax advisors.

Many log home owners have fireplaces or wood stoves that they use to create an attractive atmosphere or as a source of heat. Typically fall is the time of year that most people build their inventory of firewood to carry them through the winter. Here are a few things to keep in mind when storing firewood: Never store firewood on your porch or deck or next to your home. One thing is for certain, along with the firewood comes a whole community of insect pests. Store your firewood at least two feet away from the side of your home and keep it off of the ground. This helps keep the firewood dry and allows air to circulate throughout the wood pile. When you bring firewood inside, only bring in as much as you plan to burn in a day. Firewood stored by the fireplace may look attractive but once the logs warm up and the bugs start to emerge, you may think otherwise.

Preparing your home for winter in the fall can make life so much easier for you in the cold, dark winter weeks ahead. You'll rest easier knowing that you won't have to fight the elements when the inevitable emergency or problem crops up, as it always does. You can sit back in front of your fireplace with your family and enjoy those cold months secure in your well-protected home!

Log homes and autumn leaves seem to go together. Enjoy the season and don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions about maintaining your log home.

We are here to help you with your log home maintenance tasks



If you are a Homeowner:

- Call Perma-Chink Systems for a referral of professional applicators in your area
- Visit one of our free workshops to learn more about product application techniques
- Request PCS product catalog and application guides
- Ask for free color samples of our stains and finishes
- Visit us online to learn more about our products
- Call us to schedule a free personalized web training session for any upcoming project



If you are a Contractor:

- Call Perma-Chink Systems to join the professional referral program
- Attend our free workshop
- Make sure you have updated PCS product literature
- Visit us online to learn more about our products

Thermal Imaging and Blower Door Testing for Log Home Owners

While adequate air exchange is essential for health and safety, many older log homes have a far higher rate of air exchange than is necessary. This is often due to poor design and/or construction which allow air leakage from the inside or outside of the building, but log homes are additionally prone to settling, seasonal expansion and contraction of the logs, and other factors that can cause log joints to move over time. Given that the typical 30 x 40 log home can easily have more than a linear half mile of log-on-log surface area, determining leakage pathways is often complex and extremely difficult to visualize; leaving log home owners no other choice than to apply a sealant to all log joints in hopes of locating and correcting the problem areas.

To identify areas of energy waste, infrared imaging has quickly become a valued tool in identifying problems related to energy loss, water and insect infiltration, inefficient HVAC systems and much more. A thermal imaging camera identifies patterns of heat loss that are invisible to the naked eye and quickly indicates the air leaks within the log home with measurement data that can easily be compiled into a written report. Professional log home applicators are using leading-edge infrared technology coupled with

a computer controlled blower door to depressurize the home to an industry standard of -50 pascals, which simulates a 20 mph wind blowing on all four sides of the structure simultaneously. As air is drawn through failed log joints the temperature of the log surfaces changes, producing a thermal image that can be recorded. This allows the applicator to accurately identify and repair the problem areas to stop the energy loss immediately.

Owner of Log Home Care, Wayne Bell uses this technology and reports: "Thermal imaging provides both an immediate cost benefit from the reduction in labor required to seal the home and future savings on energy costs. The computerized blower door provides information about air exchange within the structure, expressed in square inches, which can easily be understood when expressed in terms of an open door or window. The home featured in these photos indicated an open surface area of 66.5 square inches which equates to a 24" wide window being left open nearly 3" but many log homes exhibit air exchange rates several times higher."

"Don't confuse this equipment with the inexpensive infrared thermometers sold at home



Camera use



Blower door interior



Computer readout

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Gloss or Satin?

■ Which Works Better?

By Sean Gahan, Senior Chemist



Often we get asked which works better, *Advance Gloss* or *Advance Satin*? When it comes to performance and longevity there is no doubt about it, **a gloss topcoat will outperform a satin topcoat.** Why? The most important factor is reflectivity. A smooth glossy surface reflects more ultraviolet (UV) light than a dull one. That's why automotive finishes don't come in satin versions and why a shiny coat of wax helps retain a vehicle's color.

The next factor is cleanliness. The smooth, slick surface provided by *Advance Gloss* sheds dirt easier than the Satin. That's because the flattening agent used in the *Advance Satin* results in microscopic imperfections in the surface of the finish where airborne dust, pollen and pollutants can lodge. Although they can be removed with a good washing, it takes a bit more effort than removing dirt from a glossy surface.

The last factor, at least in the Southeast, relates to how *Advance Gloss* reduces carpenter bee damage. A few years ago we did a survey of customers who used both our satin and gloss topcoats and the results clearly revealed that the gloss topcoat substantially reduced the number of carpenter bee holes. Although there was some reduction in carpenter bee activity using *Advance Satin* it was not nearly as significant as the *Advance Gloss*.

"There is a reason why automotive finishes don't come in satin versions"



Satin finish

Gloss finish

Whenever requesting exterior finish samples include a sample of *Advance Gloss* even if you are only interested in *Advance Satin* so that you can see the difference for yourself. You may end up choosing the Gloss because of the way it looks and how it highlights the color of the stain. Although there are other gloss topcoats on the market, none that we have tested retained their gloss for more than a few months. *Advance Gloss* on the other hand has been on homes and walls since back in 2003 and they continue to retain most of their initial gloss.

- Reflectivity
- Cleanliness
- Reducing carpenter bees damage



LIFELINE Interior Finishes

■ Color or Clear?

By Sean Gahan - Senior Chemist

Like applying a finish to any wood surface the first step in an interior application is to make sure the surface is clean. Once the wood is dry, the first coat of finish can be applied. If you want to add some color, one of our *Lifeline Interior* stains is the best choice. Unlike our exterior products, the number of coats you apply is not critical but adding *UV Boost* to the first coat will help prevent fading or darkening and the subsequent "picture frame effect." If after one coat you are satisfied with the color, you don't have to apply another coat of stain. On the other hand, if you only want a clear finish you can start off with a coat of *Prelude* or *Lifeline Interior* clear with *UV Boost* (*Prelude* already has *UV Boost* in it).

It's at this point that most mistakes are made. Like all water-based products, our interior finishes may raise the grain of bare wood. However, do not attempt to sand either *Lifeline Interior* or *Prelude* since you can end up removing what you just applied. This can result in a blotchy final appearance. If you want a very smooth surface, the best time to sand is after you have applied the first or second coat of *Acrylic Gloss* or *Satin*. The polymers in our *Acrylic* products are fairly hard which makes the surface easier to smooth. A light



sanding with very fine sandpaper is all that is needed, just enough to remove the high spots and imperfections in the film. Once the surface is smooth, multiple coats of *Acrylic Gloss* or *Satin* may be applied without sanding between coats.

For those who want a clear coat with more depth or scuff resistance, *Sure Shine* can be substituted for *Acrylic Gloss* or *Satin*. It is a high solids water-based urethane that can be used on walls and cabinets as well as floors. However since *Sure Shine* is not very breathable, it should only be applied to dry wood with a moisture content of less than 20%. Since *Sure Shine* is a urethane it is more subject to air entrapment and should be applied with smooth, even strokes without vigorous back-brushing.



Thermal Imaging and Blower Door Testing for Log Home Owners

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improvement stores. Advances in technology have reduced the prices of this equipment but it still represents a major financial investment for the applicator.



Camera screen



Computer close up

Prices vary by applicator but homeowners can expect to spend several hundred dollars for blower door testing and thermal imaging services, but a portion of that charge is rebated back as a credit to the homeowner if our firm does the sealant work", says Wayne.

"Whether we simply provide a printed report that illustrates what needs to be done or we handle the entire process of applying sealant to the home, our company couldn't be happier with Perma-Chink Systems products. When dealing with log joints that may allow for both air and water infiltration we use *Energy Seal* and backer rod on the outside of the structure. If the joint is leaking air but there is little risk of water infiltration, we can alternately use *Check Mate 2* (often the clear color) in the interior if needed, but our preference is to do our sealant work on the exterior surfaces. By reducing air leakage, the homeowner obtains a better level of comfort in their log home and Perma-Chink Systems provides the products to make that possible."

**PERMA-CHINK
SYSTEMS, INC.**

Beautify and Protect Your Dream

- 

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 chink-less style log home.

FACTORY STORES

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Minnesota	1-877-244-6548
Colorado	1-800-433-8781
Montana	1-800-479-7090
Pennsylvania	1-800-257-4864

DISTRIBUTORS

Canadian Log Home Supplies	
Eastern Canada	1-800-746-7773
Brock White Canada	
Western Canada	1-877-846-7506
Timeless Wood Care Products	
Michigan	1-800-564-2987
Log Home Center	
Indiana	1-800-773-6223

WWW.PERMACHINK.COM

Free Workshops, Catalog
Product Samples

Washington's Farm



"When I stumbled upon Washington Farm's log home, built in 1808, I knew the logs would need a LOT of restoration. Due to the historical significance of the structure I was determined only to work with the best in the country. Of all the contractors I contacted none of them were as prompt, courteous and knowledgeable as Mr. Pat Woody and his team. The pricing proposed was very reasonable and the work meticulous. I HIGHLY recommend Woody Wood Chinking to other historical log home enthusiasts without hesitation."

Sincerely,
M. Boblitt



Inscription. 519 acres owned 1794-1799 by the First President

Thomas Sprigg, Jr., patented in 1725 as "Woodstock" 1,102 acres here, inherited in 1782 by Sprigg's three granddaughters, Sophia, Rebecca, and Elizabeth. Sophia married John Francis Mercer (later Governor of Maryland, 1801-1803.) in 1794. Nearly half of the property was conveyed to George Washington to settle a debt owed by Mercer's father. Washington owned this land at his death in 1799.

Erected by Maryland Bicentennial Commission and Maryland Historical Society.

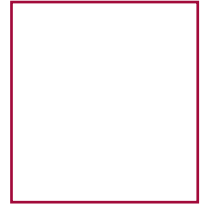


"We pressure washed the logs, then removed the exterior chinking, backer and insulation. We replaced the insulation and installed white bead board backer. We then applied *Lifeline Ultra-2* Stone Gray color to the logs. We applied *Perma-Chink* Sandstone chinking to the exterior. Finally we applied *Lifeline Advance* satin topcoat. Working on the job was myself Chris Woody, my dad Pat Woody, and our friend Nathon Foster"

For more information contact *Woody Wood Chinking*:
<http://www.woodywoodchinking.com/>

PERMA-CHINK® SYSTEMS, INC.

17635 NE 67th Ct.
Redmond, WA 98052
www.permachink.com



The Wood Home Care and Maintenance Authority

Don't Miss Out FREE Workshops FALL 2013



September 21	Knoxville, TN
September 28	Rice, MN
October 12	Knoxville, TN
October 26	Petersburg, PA
November 9	Stevensville, MT
November 16	Knoxville, TN

Remember this...

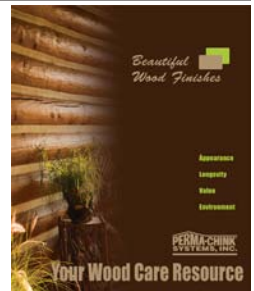
Perma-Chink® and *Energy Seal®* are freeze and thaw stable. That means that even if they become frozen, they can still be used once they have thawed but they will require a good mixing to assure a uniform consistency. However, this does not mean that either *Perma-Chink* or *Energy Seal* should be applied while they are extremely cold. If they are cold (below 50°F) they can become difficult to run through any type of chink machine, caulking gun or other tool.

So if you plan to apply any of our sealants in cold weather, we recommend that you store the sealant in a heated room for at least 24 hours before using it. That way it will be at room temperature and will be at the consistency that's best and easiest for application.

Perma-Chink Systems Free Product Catalog

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