



17 mistakes to AVOID when buying a Log Cabin

#14 could save you £1000s

Austin Newberry

Contents

1. Introduction	2
Part 1 - Things to Consider	
2. Use	4
3. Size	5
4. Appearance	6
5. Planning Permission	8
Part 2 - Cabin Building Blocks	
6. Timber	11
7. Log Walls	12
8. Insulation	14
Types	
Location	
9. Flooring	18
10. Windows, Doors and Glazing	19
Single Glazed Windows	
Double Glazed Windows	
11. Roof finish	21
Part 3 - Buying Your Log Cabin & Living in a Post Log Cabin World	
12. Design Service & Site Visits	24
13. Shipping & Delivery	25
14. The Base Construction	26
15. DIY Build or Company Build	28
16. Treatment and Aftercare	29
17. Ventilation	30
18. Checklist – Another Free Gift	31
19. Who are I?	32



1. Introduction

Over many years of selling log cabins I've been asked similar questions countless times. So finally I decided to pull all these questions (and some unasked questions) down on paper...which turned into a book. Let me guide you through the difficult bits of choosing and buying your log cabin so you can save money.

So what is this book not, its not just 101 frequently asked questions, but it has been written to allow the you to jump straight to the relevant section. There is no need to read the book cover to cover, but if that's your purpose I have created a flow in the material from the things to consider in Part 1, to the cabin building blocks in Part 2 and finally what to expect when living with a cabin in Part 3.

This guide will allow you to get the log cabin that you want and need. There are so many companies out there and they don't always allow you to compare. A log cabin is such a large and expensive purchase that you want to get it right first time. Finally, thank you for taking the time to download this book and I hope you get many enjoyable years from your log cabin.

“Let me get what I wanted...not what the sales person wanted me to get”

“If only I knew the true cost of not getting the right advice”

Part 1

Things to Consider



2. Use

Log cabins are versatile buildings. As they are cheap and quick to build (compared to an bricks and mortar) people often use them to extend their properties and add extra rooms to increase the size of their homes. If you have always wanted one but are wondering what you would use if for - here are the five most popular uses for log cabins.

A. Summerhouse or Garden Room

By far the most popular use for a log cabin is to add a beautiful room to the garden. A light and airy cabin makes the perfect garden retreat in which to read a book, tend some plants, relax with a cup of tea, or even watch the rain run down the windows.

Your cabin is also a great place to keep bikes, gardening tools, garden furniture , the BBQ and anything else you might enjoy in the garden.

In you're lucky enough to have a pool in your garden the cabin can even double as a pool house – somewhere to keep the pool toys and swimming kit.

B. Home Office or Garden Office

If your work from home, or run your own business, a cabin is the perfect way of adding a separate building to your property. Having an office on your property, but as a separate building means you feel like you're at work, but with the convenience of being close to home. You can build a complete home office log cabin for as little as £2,000. That is much cheaper than building or renting an office in any other way.

C. Kids Playroom

As the kids get older they need more room. And more importantly you might want them out of the house! A playroom cabin is a great way of giving the kids their own place to call home, entertain their friends, play their games, store their bikes and more. As they get older, or if you extend your family, you might even convert the playroom into an extra bedroom. And when they grow up and moved away you get to turn this multi-purpose room in a great guesthouse for visitors.

D. Garage or Workshop

Building a garage from concrete or brick takes time, money and normally requires planning permission. A log cabin garage or workshop can be built in a weekend, is easy to adapt, is warm and dry and smells great.

E. Gym

If you long for that home gym, but don't have the space indoors, a log cabin can be perfect. With double glazed windows and doors you can control the temperature year round. If you've got heavy or large gym equipment it's much easier to install in the garden cabin than to take upstairs to a bedroom.

3. Size

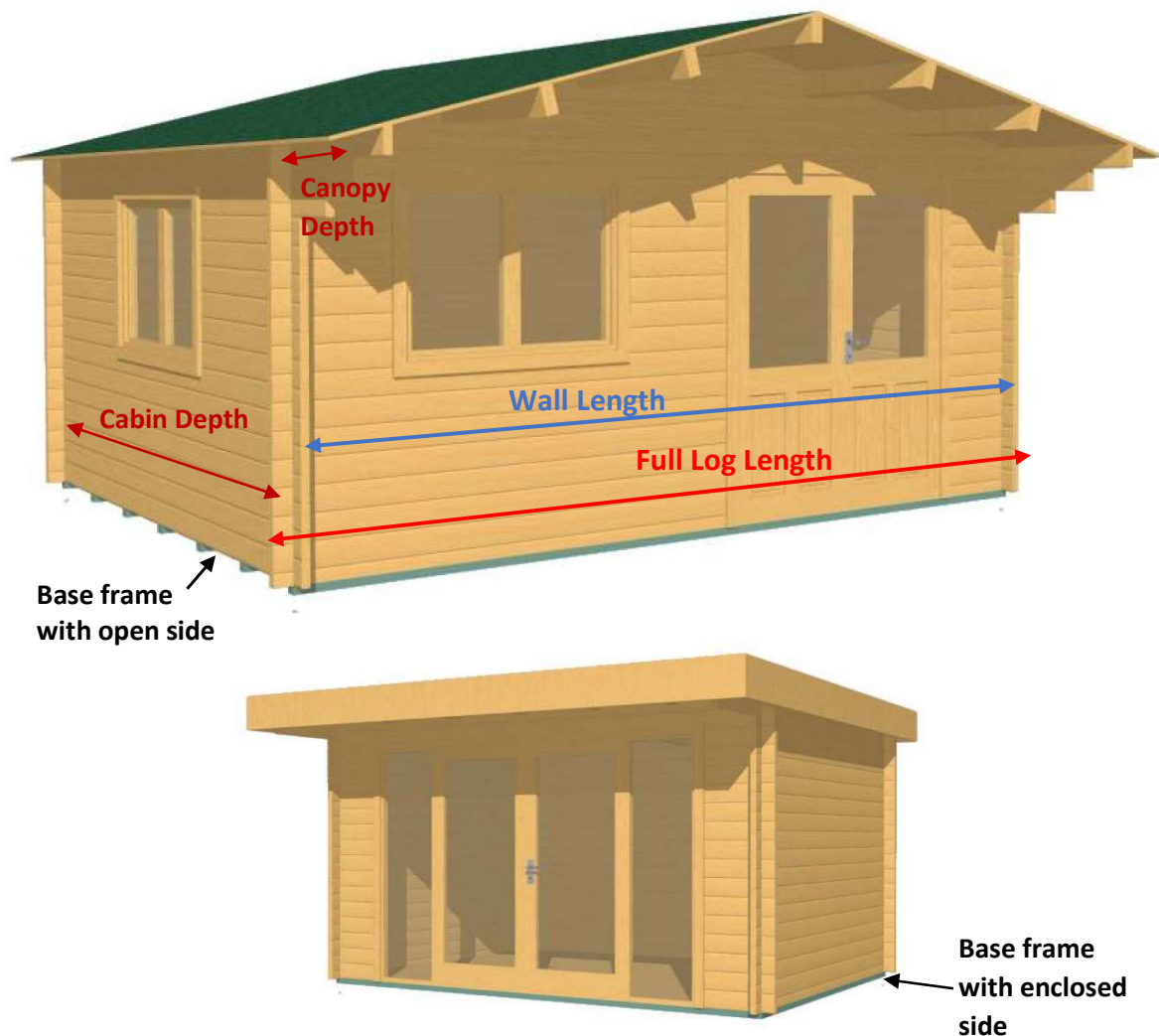
The size of your log cabin depends on your needs, and your garden space. A larger building leads to a more complicated design and higher costs but you will always use the space you purchase. We have never heard a customer proclaim... "I wish I had bought a smaller log cabin"!!

When choosing the size of your log cabin you will need to take into account the local planning requirements, see section 5 (and were correct at time of publication). Please check your relevant government website.

Don't expect to be able to squeeze a 5m wide cabin into a 5m wide garden, apart from the fact that it would be near impossible to build, you want to be able to move around the outside of the cabin to apply your waterproofing paint system, more on this later.

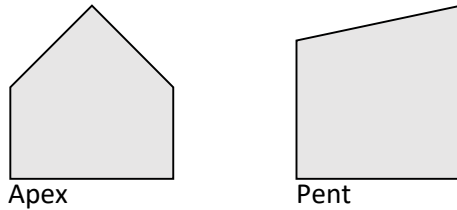
Some companies use full log length as their dimensions, some use wall length. There is no issue with either, but be mindful how you compare. Another thing to check is whether the cabin depth includes the front canopy.

Another difference is whether the base frame is enclosed or open, both have benefits. With an open base frame air can circulate beneath the cabin and dry it out, but if you are to put insulation under the cabin it is better to use an enclosed Base Frame.



4. Appearance

Apex, Pent, Sloping roof, Flat Roof, Modern, Traditional? It doesn't matter which side the entrance door is in, all log cabins in their most basic form are varieties of just two different types – Apex and Pent.



An **apex** cabin has a roof with two slopes that meet in the middle. This is the traditional shape and generally will produce a higher cabin.

A **pent** cabin features a single slope, with the highest point located at a wall. The design is suited if you need to restrict the height of your cabin, either due to neighbouring properties or to match the overall look and feel of your garden. No log cabin should have a totally flat roof, which is just asking for trouble. A pent building can be fitted with fascia boards so it looks as if it has a flat roof.



The style of cabin you choose will dictate other items like roofing material, more on this later.

Because you will probably look at your cabin every time you look out into your garden make sure that it fits within the character of your house and garden. A modern cabin for a modern house and a traditional cabin for a traditional house. There are lots of aesthetic features that can change the look quite dramatically, for example:

- Window crosses
- Shutters
- Window and door fascia boards
- Wind boards
- Wall logs

17 Mistakes to avoid when buying a Log Cabin



Solid wood shutters



Louvered shutters

In order for us to see the difference I have contrasted a Traditional and Modern Log Cabin



Apex Roof

Wavy wind boards

Wavy door and window fascia boards

Window Crosses (Astragals)

Scalloped wall logs

Traditional Log Cabin

Pent Roof
Straight wind boards
Straight door and window fascia boards
Straight wall logs



Modern Log Cabin

5. Planning Permission

A. England

Source - https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/43/outbuildings

Rules governing outbuildings apply to sheds, greenhouses and garages as well as other ancillary garden buildings such as swimming pools, ponds, sauna cabins, kennels, enclosures (including tennis courts) and many other kinds of structure for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse.

Other rules relate to the installation of a satellite dish, the erection of a new dwelling or the erection or provision of fuel storage tanks.

Outbuildings are considered to be permitted development, not needing planning permission, subject to the following limits and conditions:

- No outbuilding on land forward of a wall forming the principal elevation.
- Outbuildings and garages to be single storey with maximum eaves height of 2.5 metres and maximum overall height of four metres with a dual pitched roof or three metres for any other roof.
- Maximum height of 2.5 metres in the case of a building, enclosure or container within two metres of a boundary of the curtilage of the dwellinghouse.
- No verandas, balconies or raised platforms.
- No more than half the area of land around the "original house"* would be covered by additions or other buildings.
- In National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and World Heritage Sites the maximum area to be covered by buildings, enclosures, containers and pools more than 20 metres from house to be limited to 10 square metres.
- On designated land* buildings, enclosures, containers and pools at the side of properties will require planning permission.
- Within the curtilage of listed buildings any outbuilding will require planning permission.

*The term "original house" means the house as it was first built or as it stood on 1 July 1948 (if it was built before that date). Although you may not have built an extension to the house, a previous owner may have done so.

*Designated land includes national parks and the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, conservation areas and World Heritage Sites.

B. Scotland

Source - <https://www.mygov.scot/build-shed-garage-greenhouse/>

If you own a home, you may want to add a shed, garage, greenhouse or other building. These are known as 'ancillary buildings'.

Permitted development

Before you do this you should first check if you need to apply for planning permission.

Most ancillary buildings don't need a planning permission application, because most meet a set of rules called 'permitted development'.

The permitted development rules for an ancillary building are:

- it's located at the back of the house
- it isn't used as a separate home to live in
- it doesn't take up half the 'curtilage' – this means half of the grounds behind your home

17 Mistakes to avoid when buying a Log Cabin

- it isn't higher than 4 metres
- any part that's a metre or less from the boundary is no higher than 2.5 metres
- the eaves (the part where the wall meets the roof) is no higher than 3 metres
- if the land is in a conservation area or in the grounds of a listed building, the ancillary building has a footprint of less than 4 square metres

C. Wales

Source - https://www.planningportal.co.uk/wales_en/info/3/common_projects/34/outbuildings

Outbuildings are considered to be permitted development, not needing planning permission, subject to the following limits and conditions:

Siting

- The total area of ground covered by outbuildings cannot exceed 50% of the total area of the curtilage
- Outbuildings cannot be located in front of the building line of the principal elevation
- Outbuildings cannot extend beyond the side elevation of the house when the development would be any closer to a highway than the existing house, or at least 5 metres from the highway – whichever is nearest
- Any part of the development within 2 metres of a boundary of the house cannot exceed a height of 2.5 metres
- Any part of the development within 2 metres of the house cannot exceed a height of 1.5 metres

Height

- Outbuildings cannot exceed more than one storey
- The height of an outbuilding cannot exceed 4 metres when the building has more than one pitch (eg dual pitch and hipped roofs)
- The height cannot exceed 3 metres when the building has a single pitch or other roof form
- Flat roof buildings cannot exceed 2.5 metres in height
- Eaves height of the building cannot exceed 2.5m

Listed buildings

You will need to apply for planning permission for construction of, or amendments to, any outbuildings within the curtilage of a listed building.

Verandas, balconies and raised platforms

Verandas, balconies and raised platforms are not permitted where any part of the development would project more than 300mm above the surface of the ground below.

*The term "original house" means the house as it was first built or as it stood on 1 July 1948 (if it was built before that date). Although you may not have built an extension to the house, a previous owner may have done so.

Note: the permitted development allowances described here apply to houses not flats, maisonettes or other buildings.

Part 2

Cabin Building Blocks



6. Timber

The majority of log cabins manufactured at the moment are constructed with white timber. The structure of the cabin will be a medium/low priced timber that is stable, usually spruce. Windows, doors and their surrounds will most likely be pine, which is less dense and has a higher resin content than spruce so is better suited to these cabin elements. Cedar, douglas fir and cypress can be used to construct log cabins, but are not as popular as spruce.

There is a huge variation even in these two timber types. A timber sourced from a colder climate will be closer grained and will last longer than a timber sourced from a warmer climate. So buying from a company that sources its timber from Siberia or Scandinavia will be better than buying timber sourced from the United Kingdom as this will increase the useful life of the building.

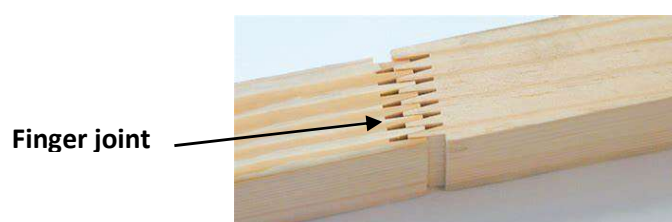
The moisture content of your log cabin timber can have a profound effect on its performance. The timber should be kiln dried to approx. 10-15% relative humidity between felling and before manufacture. If the moisture content of the wood you install is too high, excessive shrinkage may occur, along with the risk of problems of unacceptable gaps and cracks in the wood itself. When the moisture content is too low, the wood may expand, and may buckle, bow, and distort surrounding material. Side effects kiln drying are:

- Protect the timber against decay
- Fungal infections and infestations from certain types of insect
- Decreased weight and subsequently lower handling costs
- Increased strength when compared to fresh timber
- Better insulation properties
- Enhanced suitability for machine work, finishes, glues and paints.

After the timber has been kiln dried and your log cabin manufactured the story of moving wood does not stop there. Timber is hygroscopic, which means its moisture content will fluctuate based on the relative humidity of the surrounding air. As humidity increases, the moisture content increases, and the wood expands, and as the humidity decreases, moisture content decreases, and the wood shrinks. So if your log cabin is delivered in the wet winter time, expect it to expand slightly. The length of each log will not change, so a 4m x 3m cabin will always be a 4m x 3m cabin, but its height might increase by a few millimetres.

Make sure the roof and floor are tongue and groove and made from a similar quality of wood. Don't be fooled by cheap fibre boards products. It will cost less to buy but will cost you more in the longer term. Doors and windows will generally be made from pieces and off-cuts that have been glued together. This is not a problem as the joining process increases the strength of the doors and window frames.

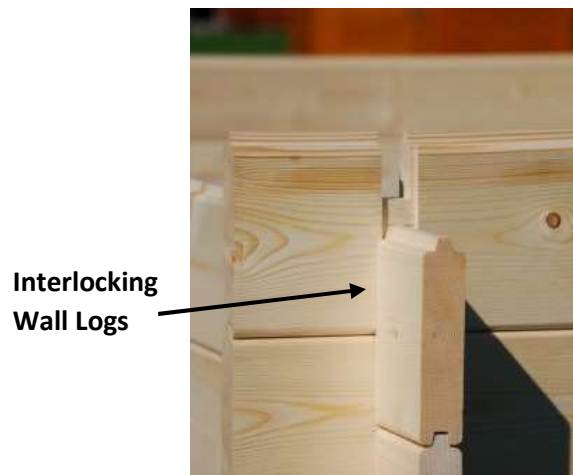
Manufacturers will finger joint shorter lengths of timber together to make longer more usable lengths. This will also increase the log strength. Multiple finger joints on non-structural timber, i.e. for doors and windows is expected but multiple finger joints per wall log should raise concerns as to the quality of the timber and hence the log cabin.



7. Log Walls

Log cabins are constructed in a variety of wall (log) thicknesses. Typically from 28mm thick to 230mm, but thickness beyond this is possible. My advice is to buy the thickest logs you can afford. A cabin built with thicker logs will be more robust, will be better insulating, and will last longer.

The logs interlock at the corners, as they are notched 10cm from the wall log end. So unlike a shed that requires an inside frame to support the structure the logs are the support.



Logs can be either round (traditional) or milled square, both have their pros and cons. Usually it is up to the taste of the buyer.

A. Traditional Round

Round logs (see below) can give the building a much more authentic feel, but will usually take longer to erect increasing costs. Also because the timber is round it does not have a uniform thickness, so although you may be purchasing a 200mm cabin, that is the max thickness and everything else is less than this!

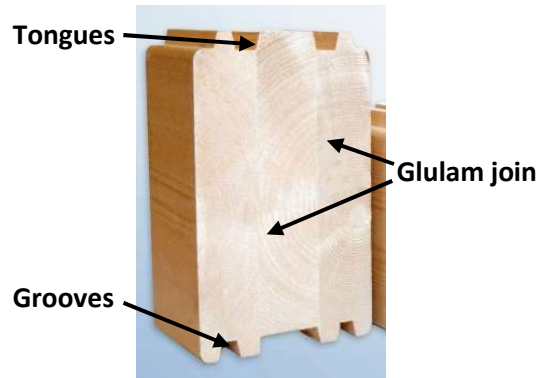


17 Mistakes to avoid when buying a Log Cabin

B. Modern Milled

A modern milled log is much more uniform so its stated thickness is the same over its full length. Modern milled logs will have one or more tongues on its upper surface and multiple grooves on its lower side, this should create an air and water tight seal.

Milled timber might be glued together, called glue lamination or glulam, this allows thinner timber to be built up in order to create timber that is stronger and less likely to split. Walls, purlins, as well as windows and doors can be manufactured in this way.



8. Insulation

Insulation not only keeps you warm but will also keep you cool. Insulating the roof will, in fact, keep the heat leaving the log cabin on a cold day and keep the sun's heat from entering on a hot day. This climate control allows you to regulate the temperature of your log cabin.

Types

When thinking of insulating most people will think about insulating the walls, but this might not be necessary, floor and roof insulation is the most cost effective. Insulation can come in many different forms, but there are three main groups:

A. Single material Insulation



The rolls or sheets (batts) of insulating material, can be up to 200cm in depth and comes in a variety of makeups:

- Rock Mineral Wool Insulation

Rock mineral wool is made from rock and other raw materials which are melted down and then spun into fibres so that it looks like wool.

Rock mineral wool gives you better protection against fire because the fibres are non-combustible. It's also a good way to insulate your home against background noise as it will absorb some of the sound.

A negative against rock mineral wool is that it can cause irritation to skin, eyes and upper respiratory system (your nasal cavity, mouth and upper wind-pipe), and precautions must be taken. For example using a protective face mask, gloves and coveralls. Take a cold shower immediately after working with fiberglass. The cold water will help keep your pores closed so that the fibres don't get deeper into your skin. It will also wash off the larger pieces of fiberglass.

- Glass Mineral Wool (Glass Wool)

Glass wool insulation is made from sand and recycled glass which eventually ends up looking like wool, but with plenty of air pockets which means it is a good thermal insulator.

Like rock mineral wool, glass mineral wool is non-combustible as well as a good sound insulator.

Unfortunately, also like rock mineral wool, glass mineral wool causes irritation to skin, eyes and upper respiratory system, and the same precautions must be taken.

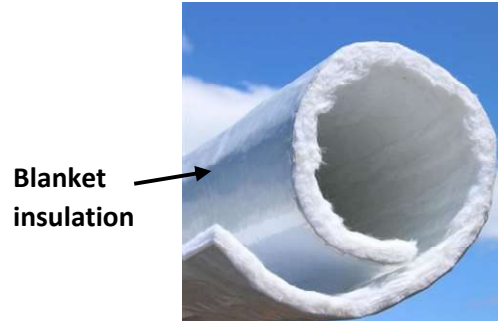
- Sheep's Wool Insulation

Sheep's wool insulation is a popular environmentally friendly choice with many advantages. Firstly, its non-combustible. Secondly, it's easy to work with as it is unlikely to cause any irritation to skin or upper respiratory system. It's great for helping with soundproofing and it absorbs water so you won't need to worry about any ventilation issues. Finally, it insulates really well. The only negative is that it is more expensive than other types of wool insulation.

B. Blanket Insulation

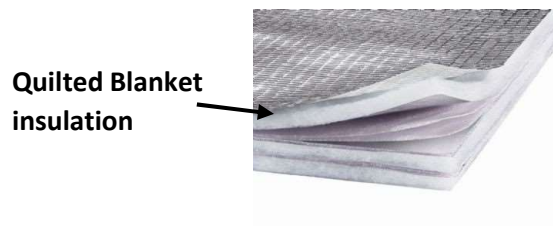
- Single Layer Blanket insulation

Comes in a roll of foam-backed wool (either mineral, glass or sheep). It can also be silver backed to reflect heat. It is fairly simple to install, and it will fit easily into wall cavities. You might find though that small spaces are more difficult to insulate using this type of insulation.



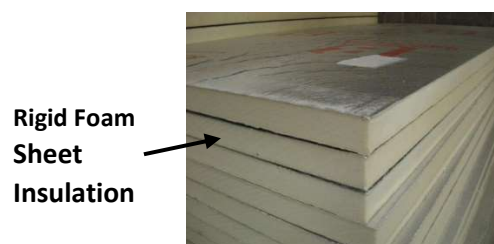
- Quilted Blanket or Multi-layer insulation

This is made up of many layers of alternating insulating materials which is non-combustible. A 10cm thick multi-layer insulation can be equivalent to 50cm of conventional wool or foam sheet insulation. This does mean that it is more expensive, and will not offer the sound insulating properties as a thicker blanket.



C. Rigid Foam Sheet Insulation

The sheets are rigid and can be treated so that they are fire or moisture resistant. There are many different types of rigid foam insulation, the cheapest is polystyrene. Rigid foam insulation can come in many thickness and can be silver backed.

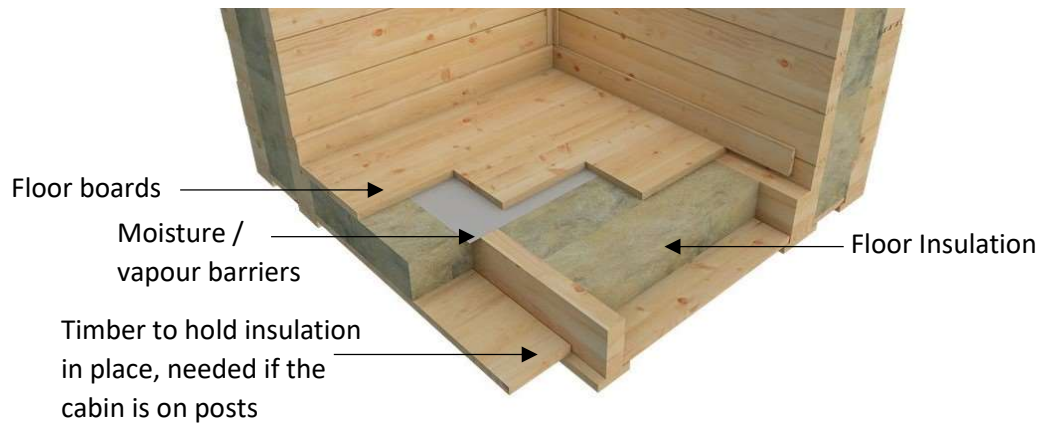


These can be easier to work with compared to blankets or wool, but might not offer the sound insulating properties.

Location

A. Floor

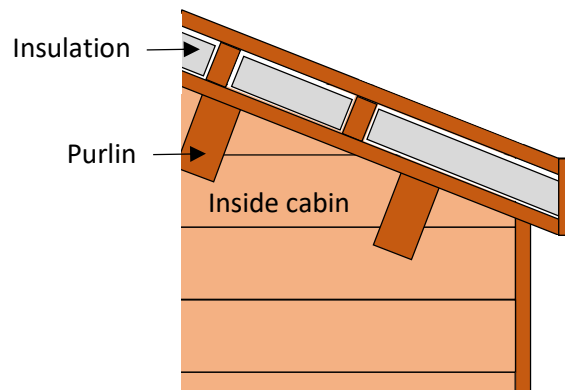
Timber buildings can be insulated under the floor, this needs to be completed at the time of building. A moisture resistant insulation is the best type for use under the floor.



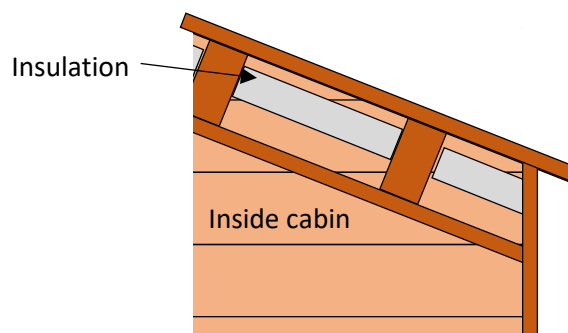
B. Roof

Insulating the roof can happen at any time, although a few things need to be taken into consideration. Any type of insulation may be used in the roof, as there should be no moisture in the roof cavity. The roof can be insulated:

- Outside, above the timber roof
-



- Inside the log cabin between the purlins. This is more cost effective, but will reduce your overall log cabin height



Either way you will have a second roof and space to run wires and fit lights.

C. Walls

If you require an all year round warm cabin, remember that wood is a fantastic insulator, so instead of purchasing an insulated wall cabin you could think about a thicker log wall which may be a cheaper alternative. If you decide on an insulated wall cabin, there are three main possibilities.

- Double Wall

A double wall log cabin is built as it sounds, with two walls. Both the inner and the outer wall interlock each other at the corners. As the walls are linked they must be the same thickness, so they move by the same amount. Also, cold bridging results as the inner wall extends beyond outer, increasing the chance of moisture and cold areas causing issues within the cabin. At its simplest, a cold bridge is a weak spot in the insulation surrounding the cabin. Cold bridges (also known as thermal bridges) occur whenever there is a break in, or a penetration of, the insulation. In a roof this cant be helped but there is ways round this issue when dealing with walls, as we shall see.

A positive of this method of insulating the walls is that it's cheaper than most.



- Insulated Panels

Each wall is made up of fully insulated panels which can be screwed together. This can make it easier to erect, but the panels can be big and cumbersome. Also fitting all the panels in the right order can take a while as well as fitting the final piece. This method of insulation can increase the price of the cabin.

- Dual Wall

The two walls are linked but can move independently, so they don't need to be the same thickness. The walls are linked via rails and if installed corrected there should be air gapping so no cold bridging. Although the image below shows the main log cabin structural wall as the outer wall, this does not need to be the case.

This method can be more expensive to erect and buy, but as the shell of the cabin can be constructed first and the insulation completed after, this allows the cabin to be made water tight quicker.



9. Flooring

Make sure the flooring is made from natural wood tongue and groove floor boards. OSB, sheet or chipboard are not recommended. OSB, sheet or chipboard might save you money initially, but if there is any water ingress at all the flooring will quickly start to degrade. It will also be covered for aesthetic reasons. Natural wood tongue and groove floor boards can be left and varnished in order to create a beautiful floor.

The thickness of floor varies but most manufactures use 19 to 22mm. For upper floors this might be 28mm or above.

The tongue and groove floor boards will just slot into one-another making the floor simple and easy to fit.



10. Windows, Doors and Glazing

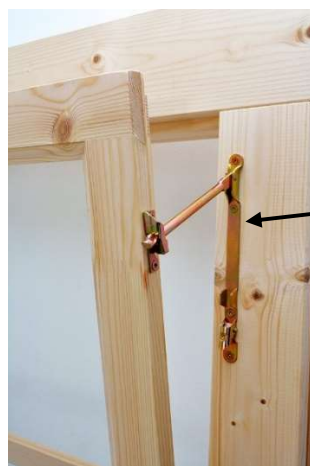
Depending on the style and use of the building, the log cabin will come with single or double glazing. If the cabin is for use throughout the year, for example a home office or garden room, you will benefit from looking for double glazing. If it is purely for summer or occasional use a single glazed cabin is more than adequate.

Some windows and doors now come fully painted from the manufacturer, cutting down the time to waterproof them. This also helps as windows and doors must to be treated on all sides to stop damage due to sun and rain which can be time consuming.

Single Glazed Windows

The single pane of glass will be around 4mm in thickness and can come toughened. These will open in one of two ways.

- A. 'Tilt' or 'turn'
- B. 'Tilt' and 'turn', this will require the moving of a snib and latch



latch unlocked allows window to 'tilt' open



Latch locked allows window to 'turn' open

Double Glazed Windows

These will open in one of three ways, depending on the quality and spec.

- A. 'Tilt' or 'turn'
- B. 'Tilt' and 'turn', this will require the moving of a snib and latch
- C. Full 'Tilt' and 'turn' action, can be operated by a handle

Double glazed window with 'tilt' and 'turn' action within handle



The double glazed window unit can come in various thicknesses depending on the quality, but as an example, if it's a 4/8/4, this means that there are two 4mm glass panes on either side of a 8mm insulating gap. These can be toughened too. Generally a double glazed window or door will have a draft-proof seal around the opening, and some will have metal work to act as a drip sill for a window or a threshold for a door.

Double glazed windows can have multi-point locking mechanism to improve security.

11. Roof finish

There are five main waterproofing roof options for log cabins:

A. Bitumen Felt Roofing

Felt comes in different qualities, it is made from a compressed cloth-fibre base, which is then covered with hot modified bitumen. During manufacture, ceramically coated coloured stone granules are then added to the top surface.

It is possible to purchase bitumen felt that is simply tacked to the roof of the cabin with nails, some bitumen felt requires to be heated when applying to the roof, this is not recommended.

Shed quality felt should not be used as you want a roofing that lasts. High quality felt that can be guaranteed for ten years or more is recommended. It is possible to get high quality felt in different colours.

**Bitumen Felt
Roofing**



B. Bitumen Roofing Shingles

Bitumen roof shingles are made from a fibre glass core which is run over rollers and then covered in hot modified bitumen. Ceramically coated coloured stone granules are then added to the top surface. The material is then measured and cut into the correct shaped bitumen roof shingles. Usually there is a sticky layer added to the base of the shingle so when fitted it will bond with the shingle below. bitumen roofing shingles can come in many different styles and colours

**Bitumen
Roofing
Shingles**



C. Cedar Shingle Roofing

These are smooth sawn, tapered and random width wood tiles. These are much more expensive than bitumen roofing shingles. The advantages of cedar shingles are that they are a sustainable, natural and long lasting product.

Cedar Shingle Roofing

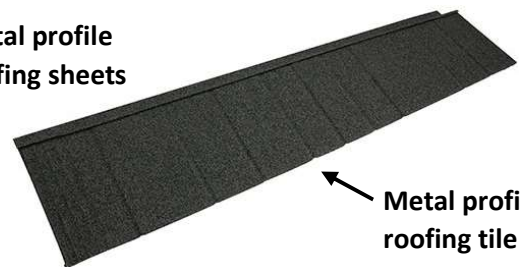


D. Metal Profile Roofing

This is a roofing system made from metal tiles or sheets characterized by its high resistance, permeability and longevity. Zinc, copper and steel alloys are commonly used. These are screwed to the cabin roof or if insulation has been fitted, these can be screwed to the roof battens without the need of the upper timber roof boards. Unfortunately without good insulating these can prove noisy in rain.



Metal profile roofing sheets



Metal profile roofing tile

E. Rubber EPDM Roofing

EPDM is an extremely durable synthetic rubber roofing membrane (ethylene propylene diene terpolymer) widely used in low-slope buildings. It is glued to the timber roof, which can prove difficult to fit in the rain. The great benefit is that it comes in one sheet, providing an unbroken barrier across the full roof so there is no chance of leaks.



Rubber EPDM Roofing

Part 3

Buying Your Log Cabin & Living in a Post Log Cabin World



12. Design Service & Site Visits

A good log cabin company will be able to sit down with you and design a bespoke log cabin to your requirements and around your needs. This may or may not require a site visit. Both these can be free, but it is better to ask and find out first. A deposit may be required to show commitment before a full design is completed, although you should be provided with a basic plan and quotation prior to any charges.

13. Shipping & Delivery

The delivery method of your cabin will depend of the company you purchase through, although usually a HIAB crane is used. It will be delivered in a pack, wrapped.



Other offloading possibilities include a small forklift truck might be used or the log cabin might be off loaded by hand. The benefit of machine offload is that the cabin is delivered complete with the pallet and waterproof coverings, so no lost pieces, no chance of rainwater, and you can open and build your cabin to suit your own timeframe.

Whichever method is used, the cabin is usually offloaded to the kerbside, next to the truck. Do not expect the cabin to be carried to the build site, although this might be part of the service. Ask the salesperson at the time of order.

Some companies will charge for delivery, depending on your location and which product is being delivered.

14. The Base Construction

DO NOT START BUILDING YOUR CABIN IF YOUR BASE IS NOT LEVEL.

Although the base may appear level, it is vital that attention is taken to ensure that the base is level. If it is not, problems WILL occur. The walls may come together okay but the roof will not line up, and stress on the cabin will reduce the cabins lifetime. Most problems can be avoided by checking and rechecking that the base is level. Many builders will put a slight slope on a base to allow the water to run off. As your base will have a log cabin on it, there will be no rain getting to it, and so no slope is needed.

There are a number of base options for putting your building on. When building a base for a log cabin, it is best that the base be the exact size of the base frame of the cabin. This allows water to run off the roof and drain away rather than sit against the base frame or bouncing up against the walls of the cabin. A channel of stones around the base will add drainage and reduce any chance of mud splash back onto the outer walls of the log cabin.

Below are the three main base build options:

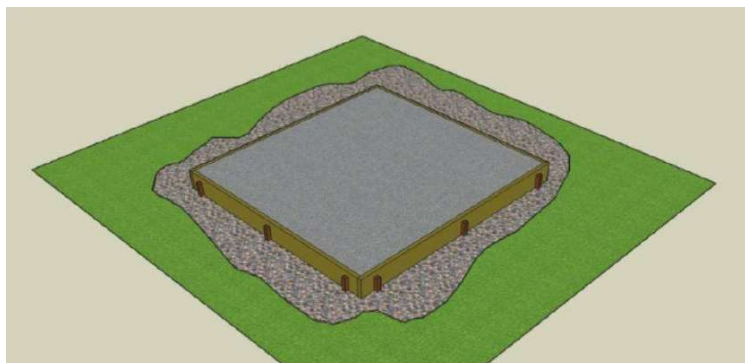
A. Post and Pillar Base.

Timber, plastic or concrete posts are fixed in the ground and a support frame constructed on it. A deck can be fixed to the frame but is not needed.



This is the cheapest option (especially if the ground is sloped) and can be easy to construct. It will require maintenance if timber is used.

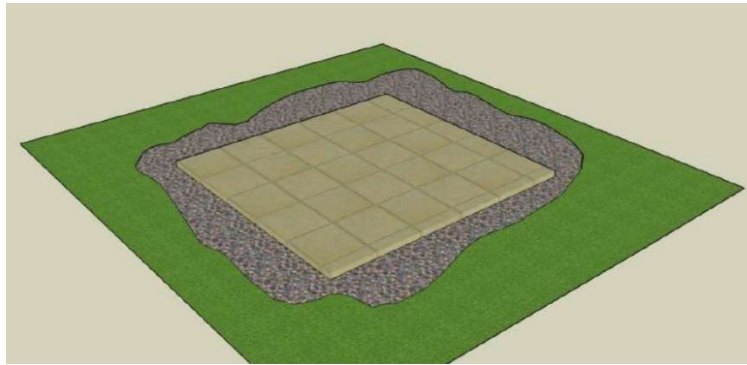
B. Concrete Slab Base



Most expensive of the three, as the ground requires to be flat so extra work may be required to remove soil. It is easy to form the required shape with shuttering and no further maintenance should be needed.

17 Mistakes to avoid when buying a Log Cabin

C. Paving Slab Base



The materials required are relatively cheap, but again this will need a flat level area. The final finished base will be attractive, but if the log cabin is not a regular shape slabs can be a hassle to cut to shape.

15. DIY Build or Company Build

Yes, it's true, a competent DIY team can build a log cabin. Ask for the instructions to be sent to you before the cabin arrives so you can have a look. Make sure you ask what tools will be required and ask if the screws/bolts/nails are supplied in the kit.

If you are not 100% certain of how to build the cabin, then I highly recommend that you get an experienced, qualified fitter to build your cabin. It will be quick, typically inside a day. It will be quality workmanship, so the cabin will look great. And it can cost less than you think.

16. Treatment and Aftercare

Wood is a natural product and will look great, but to look great for a long time it needs a little extra help. Log cabins should be treated with an appropriate quality preserving and waterproofing system. This needs to include a UV filter. This could be a stain (so you can see the grain), varnish or a paint-based system.

There is so many products out there, make sure it is suitable for log cabins (not a shed or fence product) and make sure it is guaranteed for 5 years minimum. If it says it will last 5 years, reapply after 3 years, if it lasts 10 years, reapply after 8 years.

Make sure you follow the paint system manufacturers instructions. If it says three coats, apply three! You have just paid a lot for a cabin, don't scrimp on the waterproofing.

Wood is a living product, and as such the building will expand and contract seasonally with the increase and decrease in moisture in the air. If you buy and treat the cabin, do not be alarmed if parts of untreated wood appear above the doors and windows, this is to be expected and should just be treated as required. Also, doors and windows may need to be adjusted as the cabins settles, and seasonally, to make sure of smooth operation. There should be a hex allen key adjustment in the door and window hinges, ask your seller for the size and how to adjust.

Timber knots should be treated and sealed before applying any additional products to stop the chance of water ingress through the knot.

NOTE: It is best to apply a covering for the floor, so a non-slip varnish would be good to seal it. A wood laminate or carpet can be laid. Vinyl is not recommended as it is not breathable, and moisture will be trapped underneath causing the wooden floor to rot.

17. Ventilation

If you are only using your cabin occasionally then either invest in vents or open a window slightly to allow the air to circulate within the cabin. A closed cabin without air circulation invites dampness which if left long enough will lead to mould growing and the wood will start to rot.

18. Who am I?

I run Logspan, a family-owned business that has been selling quality timber products for over twenty years. Logspan are based near Glasgow, but we sell throughout the United Kingdom. We supply both businesses and public and would love to help you.

If you want impartial advice on any aspect of log cabins, we able to help, our details are given below.

(01389)734 572

info@logspan.com

Or if you want information on our section of log cabins, our website is:

<https://www.logspan.com/>



