



Roger Wade photos

## CHOOSING LOGS (PROFILES & PACKAGES)

Deciding on a log package is one of the key moments in the log home buying process. Our no-fail guide will help you understand your choices.



**C**ONGRATULATIONS! You've decided a log home is the house for you, and you couldn't have made a better choice. Now, if only the decisions stopped there! The process of log home selection – not to mention log home building – is filled with decisions, some of them totally foreign to most homebuyers. Everything from the wood species you choose to how the logs are dried and treated to the shape they are cut. How do you know you'll make the right decisions?

Fear not – we're here to shed a little light on the subject. There are a number of factors that can impact the quality, durability and longevity of your home's logs, and picking the right combination of these factors is the key to ensuring that your home will stand the test of time.

So what are these myriad choices? And how do you get started narrow-

ing down the field? Our 4 easy steps will guide you along your way to a log home package that will satisfy now and for years to come.

### **STEP #1: MAKE THE GRADE**

Luckily, when it comes to the structural quality of logs, there are a few third-party oversight boards that have made it easier on the buyer. The Log & Timber Homes Council [a body within the National Association of Home Builders [NAHB]] and Timber Products Inspection have trained personnel who visually evaluate the structural appropriateness of log members and make sure they're suitable for homebuilding. By certifying the grade of a log, structurally unsound products are eliminated before they are installed in a home.

"Grading logs is one of the most important parts of any log

home. Buying a log package from a manufacturer who doesn't grade would be like buying a house that had never been inspected or buying a vehicle that had never been through a safety check," says Log & Timber Homes Council Executive Director, John Lingerfelt. "To ensure the safety and longevity of your log home, using graded logs is the only way to go."

"One fact most consumers are not aware of is that the National Building Code mandates that logs are certified and graded," Mark Elliott, Vice President of Coventry Log Homes explains. "There are hundreds of little companies not meeting that code requirement, and the consumer is the one that doesn't get the material quality they should. You have to ask yourself, 'If they don't grade, what else are they not doing correctly?'"



## STEP #2: DRY UP

Of the many quality checks the grading system ensures, one of the most important is dryness. The moisture content of timbers used in log home construction is a key indicator to predicting the amount of settling that will occur in the wall system. The moment a tree is cut, water begins to evaporate from the wood cells as it seeks equilibrium with the humidity of its surroundings.

In the log home industry, kiln-drying helps to control logs' moisture levels: The lower the moisture content,

the more stable the wood. A kiln-dried log typically has less than 19% moisture content; whereas a surface-dried log can contain 25% or more (some log packages are sold in this condition).

"We believe very strongly about starting with dry logs. We not only kiln-dry our logs, we have a 3rd party inspector verify the moisture content," Mark Elliott says. "I tell people all the time that you wouldn't consider buying green 2-by-4s to build a stick frame home, so why would you use green [wet] logs to build your dream log home?"

Remember that the drier and more stable the logs are, the less prone they are to twisting, checking and decay, which has a direct effect on the look and performance of your log home.

## STEP #3: GO NATIVE

Regardless of which species catches your eye, one of the major factors that will influence the species you choose is the region you live in. Most manufacturers use wood that is native to their area. It makes sense – if a tree grows naturally in a particular climate, it should easily adapt to its new life as

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# CORNER STYLES

**How your logs intersect at the corner is one of the most defining features of your home.**

## 8X8 ROUND ON ROUND BUTT & PASS

A notch on the bottom of the log straddles the top of the log coming from the perpendicular wall. Both logs extend past the corner.



## 8X8 D-LOG BUTT & PASS

One log stops where it meets an intersecting log, and the other log extends past the corner.



## SQUARE/CHINK LOG WITH CORNER POST

A post is found at each corner into which grooves are cut to hold log ends. Looks similar to post-and-beam construction.



## DOVETAIL CORNER

This style is used with square or rectangular logs. The corner is cut in a fan-shaped wedge and interlocks with perpendicular logs.





part of a log home. Cost control also is a contributor here because it's expensive to haul raw materials a long distance from the source.

That being said, if your heart is set on a specific species that may not be indigenous to your build site, the advances in the sealant and preservative industry make it possible for nearly any type of tree to adjust to a new area. And when it comes to shipping it long distances, chances are someone will be willing to get it to you.

#### **STEP #4: SELECT THE SIZE & STYLE**

The final consideration you'll want to make about your logs is their size. There are actually two choices to

make here: length and diameter. The length of the logs is important because longer logs mean fewer butt joints, which can create water infiltration points and contribute to leakage and decay. This is especially critical because moisture enters the end grain at many times the rate of the side grain.

The diameter of the logs, on the other hand, is primarily an aesthetic and cost choice. As a general rule, the larger the log diameter, the higher the price. You can totally change the look and feel of a home when choosing the diameter and profile of your logs. The scale of the home also will play a big part in the log selection. With a large home, you'd

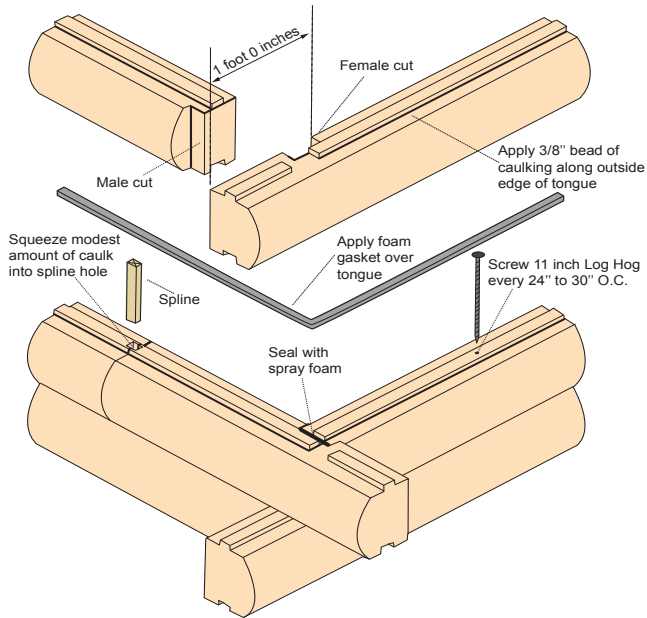
typically choose a larger log profile so it doesn't get out of scale with the structure.

"With size selected, it's time to decide on a profile and how the logs will join together. From D-shaped to square, round inside and out to tongue and groove, these too, play a big part in your log home's style [see the following page for some of your choices].

In the end, choosing a log home manufacturer that will listen to your needs and deal with you in an honest, direct manner is the ultimate commodity, and choosing this company is the smartest decision you will make.

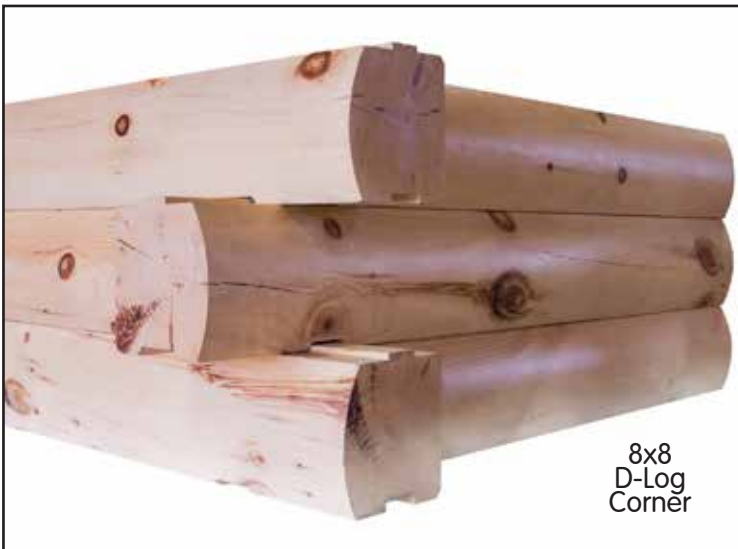


# Sealing System



**OUR FACTORY DIRECT**, pre-cut, lettered and numbered logs fit perfectly using our fastening system which has consistently earned our tested homes a 5 plus star EnergyStar rating.

# Corner Details



Standard Butt & Pass



8x8 Round on Round



Dovetail



Corner Post

# Log Profiles



## STANDARD D LOG

4x8 D  
6x8 D  
6x12 D  
8x8 D  
8x12 D  
10x8 D



## ROUND on ROUND LOG

8x8 Round  
10x8 Round



## CHINK LOG

4x8 Chink  
6x8 Chink  
6x12 Chink  
8x8 Chink  
8x12 Chink  
10x8 Chink

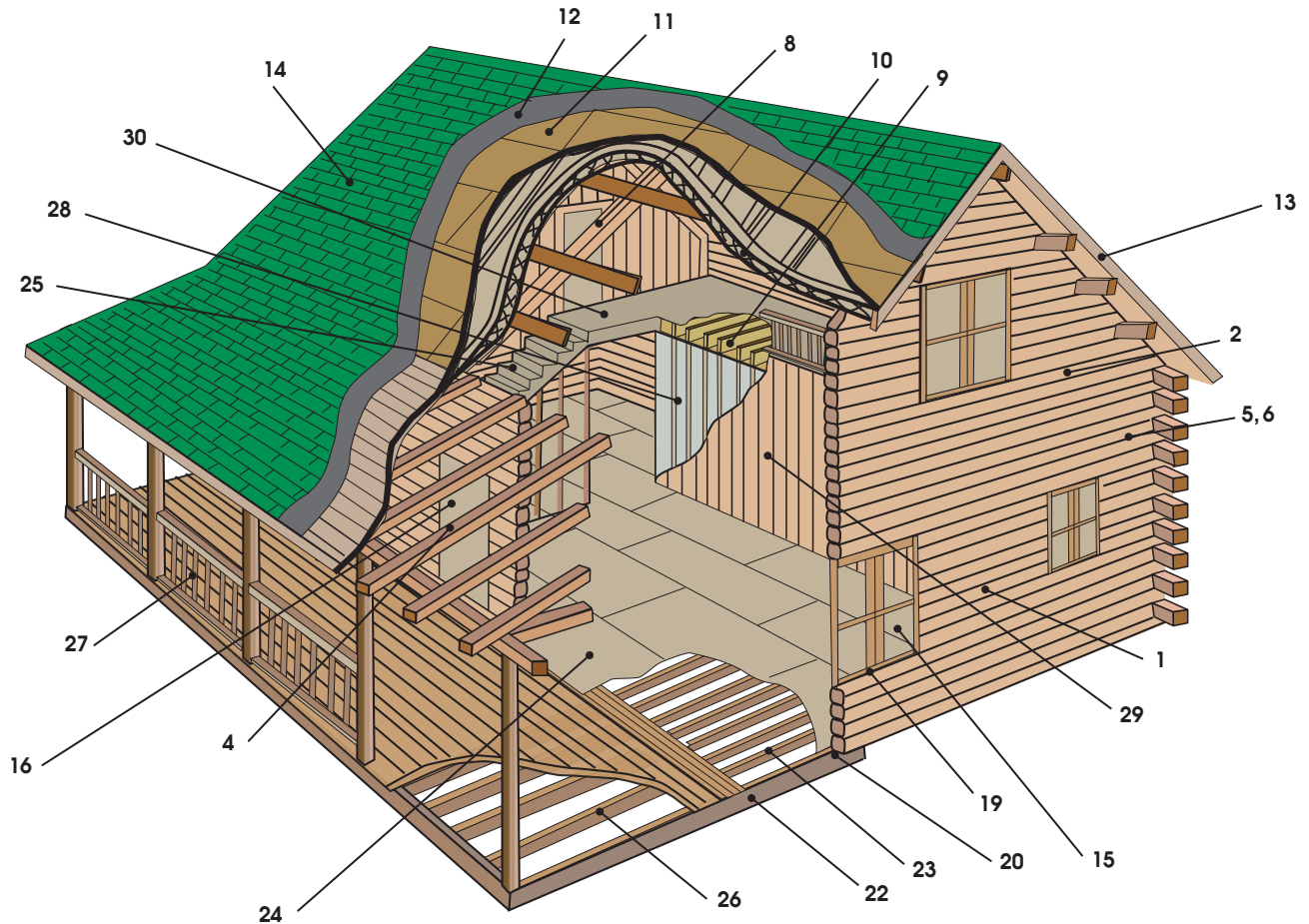


## CLAPBOARD LOG

6x8 Clapboard  
6x12 Clapboard  
8x8 Clapboard  
8x12 Clapboard  
10x8 Clapboard



# Complete Package Contents



1. Pre-cut, kiln-dried, Eastern White Pine or White Cedar numbered for easy assembly
2. Pre-cut log gables (two story)
3. Log siding skirtboard (2 rows)
4. Pre-cut log porch headers, 6" x 6" porch posts, 4" x 8" porch beam rafters and porch ceiling T&G pine
5. All the log home caulking, corner sealant, foam gaskets and splines
6. All the screw Fasteners
7. Log siding and framing for gables (ranches) and dormers
8. Pre-cut truss and purlin roof beams Craftsman Style
9. All the exposed beam loft joists Craftsman Style  
All loft floor joists per design- Tradesman Style
10. Roof rafters or pre-built trusses-Tradesman Style
11. All roof and porch sheathing
12. Triflex membrane for roof
13. All the soffit (T&G pine) and fascia (1" pine) material
14. Architectural shingles
15. Andersen 400 Series Tilt-Wash Low-E windows complete with full screens + patio doors
16. All the exterior doors Therma-Tru Fiberglass Andersen 400 Series patio doors
17. Pre-hung solid pine interior doors
18. Oil rubbed bronze handles and hinges for all doors
19. All the window and door jambs and exterior trim
20. All the sills for the floor system PT
21. All the girder materials
22. All the perimeter box
23. All floor joists
24. All the subfloor 3/4" T&G engineered sheathing for first floor
25. Basement and loft stairs
26. All the porch & deck joists 16" O.C. (flooring 5/4" x 6 PT)
27. Loft & porch railings
28. All the interior framing (kiln-dried)
29. T&G pine boards for wall covering and ceilings
30. All the subfloor for loft 2" x 6" T&G spruce or 3/4" T&G engineered sheathing
31. Detailed construction manual
32. Three sets of construction plans
33. Unlimited technical service
34. Stamped Engineered Plans if needed



# What's Included:



**Unlimited Technical Support • Three Sets of Construction Plans • Stamped Engineered Plans If Needed**



## SUB FLOOR

Sill Seal • Pressure Treated Sill Beam • Joists • Support Joists • Blocking • 3/4" T&G Engineered Sheathing • T&G Pine Finish Flooring • Stair Stringers/Treads • Basement Stair Landing • Skirt-board Log Siding



## LOG WALL SYSTEM

Kiln-Dried Logs • Milled Tongue & Groove Sealing System • Precut Log Walls w/Window & Door Openings • Precut Log Corner Systems • Precut Gable Angle Cuts • Graded Logs • Sill Seal • Starter Strip • Caulking • Foam Gasket • Corner Sealant • Pre-cut Splines • Screw Fasteners • Log Siding for Gables • Framing for Log Sided Gables • T&G Pine for Interior Gables • Wall Sheathing for Log Sided Gables



## DORMERS

Full Log Or Log Siding with Corner Extension Option • Framing • Sheathing Options • T&G Pine Interior Walls



## WINDOWS & DOORS

Andersen Low-E HP Tilt-Wash 400 Style Windows with Screens • Custom Gable Glass per plan • Therma-Tru Fiberglass Doors • Andersen Patio Door/Glider with Screens • All Door Hardware • Window & Door Jambs • Window/Door Headers • Exterior Trim Boards • Interior Trim Boards



## LOFT

Joists • Ledger • Girder • Sheathing Options • Railings • Stair Stringers • Stair Treads • Tie Beams • Stair Landing • Supports • Blocking



## PORCH & DECK

PT Joists • PT Ledger • PT Double Box • PT Flooring • Railing System Options • Porch & Newell Post Options • Exposed Beam Rafter • T&G Ceiling • Roof Sheathing Options • Rafter Nailer • Fascia • Triflex Membrane • Shingles or Metal Roof



## INTERIOR

Studs • Plumbing Wall Framing • Blocking • Plates • Plaster Studs • T&G Pine Walls and Ceiling • Support Posts • Wall Stiffeners • Pre-hung Interior Doors • Locksets



## ROOF SYSTEM

Architectural Shingles or Metal Roof • **Common Materials:** Sheathing Options • Starter & Cap • Triflex Membrane • Fascia • T&G Pine Interior Ceiling • Soffit • **Standard Roof System:** Rafter • LVL Ridge Beam • Rafter Nailer • Exposed Tie Beams • Roof Supports • Rigid Insulation (Rec Style) **Craftsman Roof System:** Arms • Purlins (Precut) • Webbing • Truss Cords • Steel Plates • Strapping

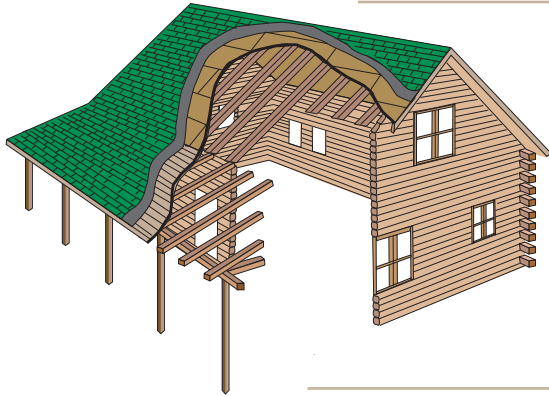
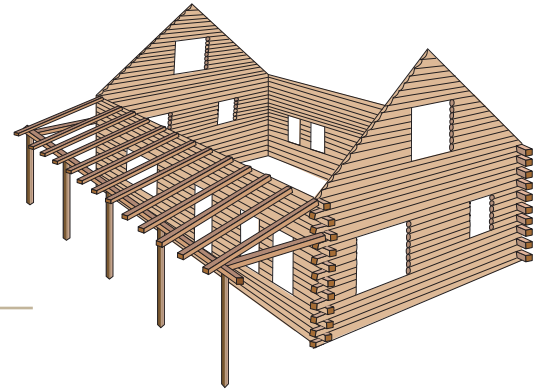


# Package and Log Options

*We have options to provide you with a tailor made package to best suit your needs*

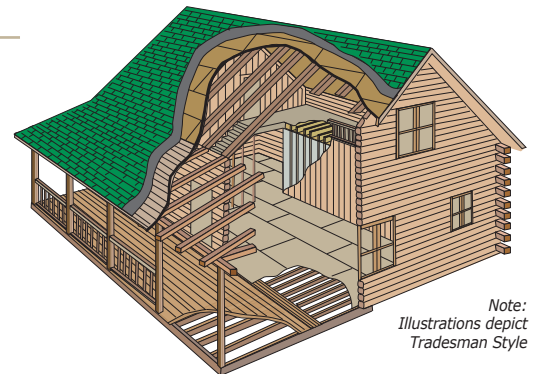
## Package Type

**THE PRE-CUT LOG WALL PACKAGE**—We provide you with the necessary mill items that are pre-cut to your design. This allows you to shop for your best deal on dimensional lumber and materials that can be purchased at your local lumber yard.



**THE SHELL PACKAGE**—This weather-tight building package contains your pre-cut log walls, windows, exterior doors, and roof materials, including shingles. It's an air-tight package that still allows you to shop for your sub-floor and all interior materials to finish your home at your own pace.

**THE COMPLETE PACKAGE**—This is our most popular package because it gives you all the materials\* needed to build your new home. No need to go to the local lumber yard five times a day—we have supplied all the materials you will need to complete your home. This package includes the 3/4" T&G engineered sheathing sub-floor, pre-cut log walls, windows, doors, roof system, interior framing and T&G pine to finish, interior doors, locksets, hardware, loft systems, stamped engineered plans when applicable, and more.



*Note:  
Illustrations depict  
Tradesman Style*

## Best Quality Logs

**EASTERN WHITE PINE**—Being based in northern New Hampshire gives us access to high grade, tight grain, dense white pine. Within an 80-mile radius of our factory is some of the highest quality eastern white pine known and we use this top-quality wood in all our homes. Don't be fooled by cheap southern pine, even though it is considered eastern white pine, it is not the same!

**NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR**—

Cedar comes in a lot of grades - we choose to use a higher-level grade cedar compared to others. We are consistently told "our logs are better" by builders who have seen it all. We buy a higher grade so you get a better-quality home. We are also told our logs are longer than our competitors so you will have less joints in a Coventry Log Home!

***We Use Kiln-Dried Logs In ALL Our Homes!***

### NOTE: What Is Not Included

*Due to differences in personal preferences and requirements, the following items are not included in our packages:*

- foundation • basement support post • any masonry items • labor to construct
- plumbing and heating materials • electronic materials • kitchen cabinets • countertops
- finish flooring • stains or finishes • roof insulation • nails • flashing • vents and miscellaneous items



# Coventry Log Homes

## The Best Choice



★ **MOST COMPLETE PACKAGE**

See Our Website:  
[www.coventryloghomes.com](http://www.coventryloghomes.com)

★ **FACTORY DIRECT**  
*No Middlemen*

★ **KILN-DRIED LOGS**  
*Dry Logs Are Better*



Ask Our Log Home Experts  
About Custom Log Additions

**Always the BEST Materials, the BEST Price, & the BEST Value!**

### COVENTRY LOG HOMES, INC.

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