



Log Cabin Aftercare

After your cabin has been installed there are a number of actions that need to be completed to ensure your cabin is rot proof, weatherproof and water tight. Carrying out these steps will ensure your log cabin is durable and long lasting.

This document provides details on the following tasks and the best way to accomplish these tasks.

1. Treating the cabin against rot.
2. Applying a weatherproofing finish to the cabin.
3. Sealing the doors and windows (must be completed after treating and finishing is complete).
4. How to adjust the doors.

Applying the preservative and finishing coats to your cabin must be completed before applying silicone to the windows and doors as once the silicone is in place it will repel the treatment during application.

1. Protecting Against Rot

Your log cabin comes in an untreated form, (except for the bearers which do come treated as they are in direct contact with the ground); therefore the correct treatment application of your cabin is required as soon as possible, ideally within 7 days of the cabin being built.

For the exterior treatment we recommend the use of a solvent based preservative such as Barrattine Preserver as it is slower drying than water based alternatives, ensuring better penetration of the surface layers of the timber.

Start the treatment process by applying two coats of preservative to the exterior of your cabin. Preservative contains substances that will prevent the build up of fungi, mildew, and wood boring insects. Some of these fungi are potentially very harmful to your log cabin, causing it to rot.

Before the floor is laid inside the cabin, the external side of the floor boards must be treated with the preservative and weatherproofing treatment. The interior side can be treated with a suitable interior treatment later, once the cabin has been built.

2. Weatherproofing Your Log Cabin

Your cabin needs to be protected from moisture, and to a lesser extent, the sun's UV rays.

Timber will constantly try to reach a moisture content equilibrium with its surrounding environment causing the cells of the wood to continually expand and contract. In addition, any untreated timber exposed to rain, or water in general, can expand rapidly. This constant movement leads to issues such as twisting, warping, splitting, bowing, cupping, and many more potential problems. In fact the largest percentage of timber related issues are directly linked to movement.

UV rays from the sun break down lignin in the surface cells of timber causing it to go a grey colour, this doesn't harm the timber in any way but it does look unsightly. A good quality exterior timber finish must be applied to the exterior of your cabin which offers protection from the extremes of our climate throughout the UK.

The 2 most common types of high quality exterior wood finish are penetrating finish and film finish.

Penetrating finishes are predominantly oil or wax based and they work by soaking into the surface layers of timber to provide a tough, durable, weather resistant finish. These finishes are extremely thin in viscosity in order to penetrate the microscopic pores of timber. The more coats applied the further the finish penetrates the timber and the better the protection against UV rays, due to the build up of pigment (colour).

Penetrating finishes are extremely easy to apply and maintain. When the finished surface starts to look tired and worn, it is simply a case of re-applying a fresh coat. No need to sand, strip back or remove the old finish. Penetrating finishes are very forgiving for patch repairs meaning that localised areas of wear are very easy to repair and blend in with the surrounding areas.

Film finishes provide a protective film layer upon the surface of the timber and each coat applied increases the thickness of the film layer. The resins are polymer based and are usually Alkyds or Acrylic, which bond together during the drying process to form the film. These types of finishes are constructed in such a way that the top coat will start to deteriorate with the coat losing its colour and sheen when maintenance is required.

Preparation is fundamental before applying a film finish. A primer coat has to be applied to provide a key for the film finish to adhere to. Without a primer coat film finishes have a tendency to crack during timber movement. This leaves the exposed timber vulnerable and as more water gets under the film it can then peel leaving the timber further exposed. In the event of cracking and peeling the entire finish has to be removed using a heat gun and scraper.

More recently a third finish type has entered the market and is increasing in popularity. This is a penetrating/film finish hybrid. It offers all the advantages of both types of finish and provides superior timber protection. It doesn't crack or peel and is easy to apply and maintain.

A suitable exterior timber finish must be applied to the exterior of your cabin in order to validate your guarantee. Always read and follow manufacturer's usage and application guidelines. We recommend the following exterior finishes:

- Sikkens Cetol HLS Plus
- Restol Wood Oil
- Timmersol ETS Double Protectant
- Osmo Country Colour
- Osmo Natural Oil Woodstain

These finishes have been proven to stabilize the movement of timber associated with log cabins. The majority of issues which arise are a direct result of an inferior finish being applied to the cabin. As such, in the rare event of a problem, you will be asked to **provide photographic evidence of your receipt** of purchase for any of the products listed above.

It is ok to treat the exterior walls and interior of the cabin once it has been built but it is essential to treat the underside (outside face) of the floor as described above before it is laid. If you are having the cabin built by a third party you must carry out this treatment in advance of their arrival so the boards have time to dry before they are laid. The same is true of the roof boards; if a fitting team is building the cabin they will want to lay the felt shortly after building the roof so the roof boards must be treated on their outer side, as described above, in advance of the fitting team arriving. If you are building the cabin yourself then you will have more time to treat the floor boards before fitting them and the outside face of the roof can be treated once assembled, before fitting the felt.

Exterior treatment of the underside of the floorboards will protect from rising damp and prevent damp from penetrating the boards. On the roof it will impede the moisture exchange process within the roof boards which are at risk from swelling and lifting, particularly in conditions where humidity levels are high. While the roof felt or shingles protect the roof boards from rainwater they do not prevent moisture from penetrating the boards.

A suitable interior timber finish must be applied to the interior of your cabin in order to validate your guarantee. Always read and follow manufacturer's usage and application guidelines. We recommend the following interior finishes:

- Osmo Polyx®-Oil Original
- Osmo Uviwax® UV-Protection

3. Sealing The Doors And Windows



1
Start by purchasing 2 tubes of generic clear silicone sealant and an application gun. Only apply sealant after treating the cabin.



2
Seal around the outer perimeter of the frame where it meets the logs of the cabin. Always ensure the bead of silicone makes contact with the frame and cabin logs to provide a good seal.



3
Apply the same technique to the inner frame.



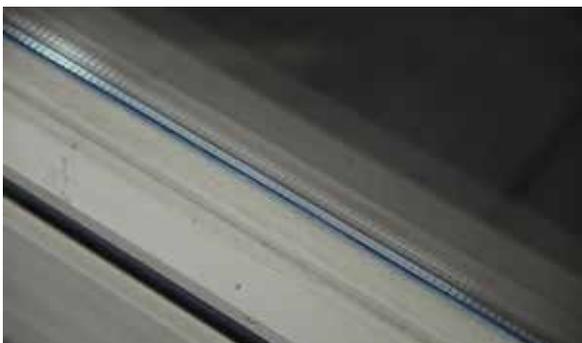
4
Ensure a bead of silicone is applied around the entire perimeter of the inner frame making contact with both edges of the frame to provide a seal.



5
Most importantly of all apply a bead of silicone around the perimeter of the frame where it meets the glass.



6
When applying the silicone try to maintain an even pressure on the applicator and use a smooth slow movement as you move the nozzle across the frame.



This is what the silicone bead should look like after application.

4. Adjusting The Doors



1 Start by lifting the door off the hinge.



2 This will allow access to the adjusting bolt, located in the female part of the hinge attached to the door.



3 Carefully lift the door back onto the door frame hinge and check the adjustment. If further adjustment is required, lift the door back off the hinges and repeat the process as required.



4 Using an Allen Key, turn the adjustment bolt anti-clockwise to push the door closer to the adjacent door, or turn it clockwise to pull the door back towards the door frame. Repeat with the bottom hinge as necessary.



When adjusting the doors, line the internal locking bolts up with the bolt holes located in the door frame. This will act as a guide on how far each door should be adjusted. In cases of extreme movement, the bolt holes may have to be relocated by drilling a new receiver hole, unscrewing the metal bolt hole cap, and re-screwing it over the newly drilled hole.