

# Perma-Chink Systems News

Spring/Summer

The Wood Home Care and Maintenance Authority

## Individual Training Now Available

Using web conference technology, Perma-Chink Systems now offers individual training to homeowners via the internet.

You will be able to share documents, photos and other materials with your training Specialist and get answers to your log home and wood care questions in real-time.

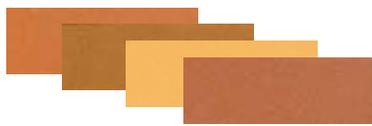
Call 800-548-1231 to make an appointment today!

## Find Your Color

We are proud to introduce four new colors to the color selection of our leading sealant.

See page 4 for details.

These new colors will complement your finish and enhance the beauty of your home.



## In today's issue:

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[www.permachink.com](http://www.permachink.com)

## 15 Reasons People have Trusted Perma-Chink® Systems for 30 Years



What do *Microsoft*, *Volvo*, and *Visa* have in common? Their names are synonymous with innovation, safety, and trust. Add to that list, *Perma-Chink Systems, Inc.*, because when it comes to protecting log homes with innovative, safe, and trustworthy products, no name is more frequently called to mind.

What began in 1981 as a simple idea – replacing the rigid concrete-mortar sealant with a flexible chinking material that moves with a log home as it settled – revolutionized the entire log home industry. This product, *Perma-Chink Log Home Chinking*, looked like traditional mortar but accommodated continuous log movement while maintaining a tight seal between logs. The modern, energy-efficient log home was born.

Over the next 30 years, Perma-Chink Systems has firmly rooted itself as the premier provider of cutting-edge log home sealants, stains, and maintenance products. There are myriad reasons why log home manufacturers, builders, and homeowners around the world count on Perma-Chink Systems – we present the top 15:

1. Perma-Chink Systems forever changed handcrafted log homes with the industry's first flexible chinking, replacing rigid concrete mortar or painted splines. With its revolutionary chinking material, *Perma-Chink®* helped to erase log homes' previous "drafty" reputation, providing a tight seal between log courses and making log homes warmer and more comfortable than ever before.
2. Rich Dunstan, Perma-Chink's founder and president, believes in the importance and power of giving back. Since 2006, the company was a proud partner with ABC's popular program "*Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*" on three occasions, helping families in need.

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## 15 Reasons People have Trusted Perma-Chink® Systems for 30 Years

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3. Where other stain and sealant companies try to be all things to all manners of wood buildings, Perma-Chink Systems has always focused on one thing – the comfort and durability of log homes.

4. Perma-Chink Systems is the log home building industry's trusted partner for the tightest, greenest, and most impeccably finished log homes in the world. Hundreds of log home manufacturers, general contractors, and builders have turned to Perma-Chink Systems for the past three decades because of the easy application and superior performance of its products.

5. The same reputation for reliability and durability that has lured homebuilders for 30 years also has encouraged thousands of homeowners to ask for Perma-Chink by name. Homeowners rest easy knowing their homes are finished with the finest, most technologically advanced products in the world.

6. For 30 years, Perma-Chink Systems has prided itself on solving problems before they happen. Its *Shell-Guard*® borate treatment stops bugs in their tracks and keeps decay caused by moisture at bay. The best part? A one-time application is typically all it takes.

7. The Company's complete line of wood cleaning and restoration products is designed not only to keep wood looking its absolute best but also to extend its life. You can be sure that Perma-Chink's cleaners will remove dirt, dust, and pollen, renewing the natural beauty of your log home.

8. Perma-Chink Systems premium *Lifeline Ultra-2*™ exterior stain with the *Lifeline Advance*™ clear coat was the first in the Industry with a **5-year warranty**. *LIFELINE*™ stains and finishes for exterior and interior not only protect the wood for years, but also highlight its true beauty and the warranty gives you peace of mind.

9. *Lifeline Endure*™ deck finish is a quick-and-easy one-coat stain that protects decks from water and snow while providing outstanding resistance to graying caused by UV exposure. This low environmental impact formula is scuff and abrasion resistant, but it doesn't get slippery, even when wet, making it one of the safest deck stains available.

10. *Perma-Chink*® is the product of choice for premier outdoor recreation outfitters like Cabela's, which operates in more than 30 locations across the U.S and Canada. Cabela's chose Perma-Chink to put the finishing touches on its 185,000 square foot log-and-stone destination store—the company's first in the state of Washington.

11. Perma-Chink Systems introduced the revolutionary sealant for milled log homes – *Energy Seal*™. There is nothing on the market that can beat *Energy Seal's* natural appearing colors, ease of application, coverage and hiding properties. When applied on your log home, it stops air infiltration, which increases energy efficiency and comfort.

12. Perma-Chink Systems new online store makes it easier than ever to buy the products contractors and homeowners need. Just visit [www.pcsproducts.com](http://www.pcsproducts.com) to browse the entire catalog of stain colors, finishes, preservatives, sealants, and cleaners from the comfort of your easy chair.

13. Perma-Chink Systems knows that an educated customer is a satisfied customer. That's why the Company developed live workshops and Webinars to walk you through each step of the application process, address pertinent topics, and help to ensure your highest level of satisfaction with every one of Company's products.

14. Get all your questions answered in real time by clicking on the Knowledgebase link at [www.permachink.com](http://www.permachink.com). Choose links to 10 of the most frequently asked questions or pose your own specific question to Perma-Chink Systems field of experts.

15. Perma-Chink Systems is dedicated to protecting the environment today and for generations to come. Not only is its *LIFELINE*™ series of stains and sealants “green,” since clean-up requires only soap and water, it won't inject toxins or pollutants into the surrounding air or earth. So homeowners can breathe a little easier knowing they're doing their eco-friendly best for the Earth and themselves.



## Spring Inspection

### ■ How to Prolong the Life of Your Home

By Vince Palmer

One key for keeping your log home in tip-top condition is to take an hour or so once the weather turns nice to inspect the exterior of your home for signs of potential problems. Remember that a bit of maintenance and small, inexpensive repairs now can prevent expensive repairs later on.

Before we start discussing the inspection process, here are a few tips. First, make a diagram of your home that you can carry with you while you conduct your inspection. It does not have to be fancy, just a simple plan that you can use to note where something needs to be done. Second, if you have a digital camera, take it with you during your inspection. It's amazing how something you see may disappear when you go back to look for it. Use a checklist of things that are relevant to your home. It's easy to forget what to look for by the time you get to the third or fourth wall. Third, give your home a wash down with *Log Wash* before you start your inspection. It's difficult to determine the condition of a finish when it's covered with a layer of winter dirt.

### The Inspection

Start at one corner of the home and be sure to go all the way around. Inspect each wall individually and don't try to inspect too much at a time. Begin by standing back away from the wall and look for some of the more obvious problems such as:



- Filled gutters and blocked down spouts. If you are not sure about them, use a garden hose to check that they are in good working order.
- Look at the dormers and upper story windows for signs of water damage. If you have a problem seeing that far, use binoculars to inspect the higher areas.
- If you have a sprinkler system turn it on to make sure that no water is hitting the log or foundation walls.
- Plants and shrubs should be no closer than 24 inches to any log wall. If necessary, trim them back or move them. Tree limbs should be no closer than three feet from your walls or roof.
- Move any piles of firewood at least two feet away from the foundation and never store firewood on your porch.
- Look for any wood that is in contact with the ground, even if it's pressure treated. For protection against termites and rot, all wood should be at least 12 to 18 inches above the soil line.
- When you stand back from a wall you can better see general patterns of wear and fading of your finish, especially on the south and west walls.
- Now that you have inspected the wall from a distance it's time to get up close to see what's going on.
- Look closely at the finish. Round logs tend to weather more on the upper half than the lower half since it's this area that's most exposed to the sun and rain.
- Are there any new upward facing checks that have opened up since your last inspection? If so, use *Backer Rod* and *Check Mate 2* to seal them. It's also a good idea to pour a little *Shell-Guard RTU* in the check before you seal it to kill any rot fungus that may have started to grow.
- If you have logs showing signs of decay take along a small hammer and lightly tap the logs every few feet. If a log sounds hollow or you get a dull thud you may have a pocket of rot that needs to be addressed. Use a thin screwdriver to probe the area. If the wood is soft, dig it out, apply some *Shell-Guard RTU*, let it dry and fill the void using *M-Balm* and *E-Wood*.

## ■ How to Prolong the Life of Your Home

(Continued from page 3)

- While you are inspecting the logs you should be looking for signs of insect infestations. A few small beetle holes here and there are no cause for alarm. Most of the holes will probably be old and empty. If you think that the holes are new stick a strip of masking tape over them and check it a week or so later. If the infestation is active, holes will appear in the masking tape. It takes many years for these beetles to do much damage. Just make a note of it and when it comes time to completely refinish the home be sure to treat the bare wood with *Shell-Guard* before you apply a new finish.
- Window and door frames are the source of many water related problems. Check to see if the caulk is adhering to the adjoining surfaces. If it's not, pull it out and re-caulk with *Energy Seal* or *Woodsmen*. Never use a silicone-based caulk, it won't adhere to wood!

- Give special attention to all logs ends, especially if they extend out beyond roof overhangs. The ends really absorb water and that's where a lot of rot problems start. Consider sanding the butt ends, putting on a fresh coat of stain and sealing them with *Log End Seal*. Log ends that stick out in the weather take a beating and need a little extra care to keep them in good shape.

Visit our website:

[www.permachink.com/inspection.htm](http://www.permachink.com/inspection.htm)  
to download a **Spring Inspection Check List**



**\$** Start saving on your heating and air conditioner bills now!

**ENERGY SEAL™**  
A name that speaks for itself



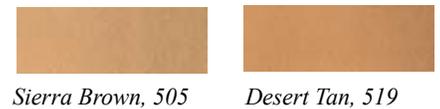
## Introducing More Colors

*Energy Seal* has been a product of choice for many log and timber home owners, contractors, log home manufacturers to seal gaps, cracks, joints and other areas where air or water can penetrate into the home.

*Energy Seal* is a highly elastic acrylic polymer sealant that provides a long-lasting and resilient seal for any style of log home.

It is lightly textured to match wood surfaces for applications where you would like the sealant to be invisible. *Energy Seal* accepts stain colors and blends into the surface of wood joinery.

We are happy to introduce four new colors of *Energy Seal* to better match our *Lifeline* finishes.



## Renovation in Tennessee #2

### ■ Prepared to Deal with Unexpected

By Tony Huddleston

After the initial inspection of Phil and Melissa's home it was determined the West and East wall would need to be media blasted due to the severe weathering to the log surfaces on those two walls. The front wall was protected by the porch, so it was spared the damage from years of exposure. It was decided to use recycled glass for the blasting procedure as there would be less clean up and it would lessen the chances for additional mold or mildew growth from any protein-based media.

The first step was to cover all of the windows to prevent any damage from the blasting process. All trim, gutters and downspouts should also be protected as well as air conditioning units and electrical boxes that may be in the area to be cleaned.



Media blasting is a very effective method of finish removal, but it should be used with some factors in mind before it is considered. The first concern is the fact the blasting process removes not only the unwanted finish, but it also removes some of the wood layers and leaves an entirely different surface when the process is completed. Plus, it requires specialized and expensive

equipment to either be rented or bought which should be figured into the estimate. While the process can be done by anyone with a little training, it may be a better choice to have a professional who has the experience and the equipment to do the work.

Once the media blasting process was completed on the West and East wall, we decided to start the re-finishing process on the East wall. We discovered some areas on the West wall that would require some rot remediation before it could be refinished. As always when media blasting has been the method for finish removal it was necessary to wash down the wall with *Log Wash™* to remove any residue from the blasting process along with any dirt or pollen that may have settled on the surfaces. *Log Wash™* is an excellent pre-cleaner to use prior to any staining process, as it not only removes dirt it also helps to sterilize the surface. *Log Wash™* is also an excellent cleaner to use in any home maintenance program for removal of "last year's" dirt and pollen residue that may have settled on the finish.

Now that we had the wall clean it was determined the trim around the windows would need to be removed to inspect the condition of the seal and insulation as the thermograph test indicated air infiltration around the windows.

To eliminate the air leaks around the windows, foam was cut and placed around the jambs and pushed back to allow the application of *Woodsmen™* Log and Timber Sealant to insure a complete air tight seal could be obtained before new trim was installed. The trim

was intentionally left off so the finish could be applied to the areas that would be covered by the installation of new trim.

As the wood surfaces were now all clean and dry this is the best time during the renovations process to add a little insurance by applying a wood preservative. The product of choice was *Shell Guard RTU®* which is not only a preservative; it is also a deterrent against wood ingesting insects. The borate/glycol solution is easily applied with no measuring or mixing to worry with, just pour the product into a low pressure sprayer and go to work.



The borates are also recognized as being the most effective "green" wood preservatives that are available. The *Shell Guard®* is also very quick drying, and one application is normally all that is needed as long as the finish remains intact. Plus there is no "poison" smell and as it has no color, it removes the worries about it changing the color of your finish.

Now we were ready for the first step in the finish system which was the application of *Prelude™* Clear Wood Primer prior to applying the finish.

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## ■ Prepared to Deal with Unexpected

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One of the things that happens in media blasting is the log surface is left with a “texture” unless you decide to sand the surface. This texture does a couple of things, first thing is you end up with a surface that really promotes good adhesion of the finish as it is slightly roughed up in comparison to smooth wood. So that’s a real plus, but the rougher surface also promotes better absorption of the finish which is good thing too! But as this finish is being absorbed it also takes a bit more finish to do the job, which is understandable as you are coating a porous surface.



The resulting color over a blasted finish is more extreme for a couple of reasons. One, you are applying more finish, and two the light reflection is different on rough surfaces. The simple result; it ends up being the color you bought does not look like the sample you put on smooth wood you picked up to do your testing with. Remember the title? “Prepare to deal with the unexpected”.

Let’s get back to the application of *Prelude*<sup>™</sup>, this product was developed as a result of feedback from applicators who were dealing with the color issue when they used the media blasting process. *Prelude*<sup>™</sup> is a clear wood primer for rough wood surfaces that basically eliminates the color issue, but *Prelude*<sup>™</sup> has a bonus feature as

it incorporates a mildewcide package along with additional ultraviolet protection to help slow down the graying process caused by the sun. It actually helps to prevent the photo oxidation of the lignin in the wood thereby making the finish last longer as well by slowing down the process. One thing I should mention here is the fact the way this product is designed; it must be applied to bare wood surfaces only as it has to come in contact with wood itself.



The application of *Prelude*<sup>™</sup> is much the same as the finish application; use an airless and spray until the point of run-off and back brush to work it into the fissures and checks on the logs as well as to brush out any runs. You can also use the “brush and bucket” method if you’re one of the traditionalist types. It dries fairly quickly and cleans up with soap and water.

In the next newsletter, we will be dealing with the West wall and more of the unexpected stuff.

## Company Stores

### Washington/Western Division

Redmond, WA 98052  
(425) 885-6050  
1-800-548-1231

### Tennessee/Eastern Division

Knoxville, TN 37914  
(865) 524-7343  
1-800-548-3554

### Minnesota Branch

Rice, MN 56367  
(320) 393-3088  
1-877-244-6548

### Colorado Branch

Rifle, CO 81650  
(970) 625-1966  
1-800-433-8781

### Montana Branch

Stevensville, MT 59870  
(406) 642-3544  
1-800-479-7090

[www.permachink.com](http://www.permachink.com)

## Stocking Distributors

### Canadian Log Home Supply, Central & Eastern Canada

1-800-746-7773  
[www.canadianloghomesupply.com](http://www.canadianloghomesupply.com)

### Hess Log Home Supplies, Pennsylvania

1-800-257-4864  
[www.hessloghomesupplies.com](http://www.hessloghomesupplies.com)

### Log Home Center, Indiana

1-800-773-6223  
[www.loghomecenter.com](http://www.loghomecenter.com)

### Steels Industrial Products, Ltd., Western Canada

1-877-846-7502  
[www.steels.com](http://www.steels.com)

### Timeless Wood Care Products, Michigan

1-800-564-2987  
[www.timelesswoodcare.com](http://www.timelesswoodcare.com)

## Create a Log Home Space without Changing Your Address

Have you ever wished that you could live in a log home but you're stuck living in conventional housing? If so, join the growing number of people tackling home improvement projects to create a space that has the "feel" of log home living within the limitations of your current home.

Our project was to convert a roughly 30'x50' unfinished basement in a contemporary suburban neighborhood into a space that would capture the tranquility of a north woods lodge. Many of the design and construction techniques we used could just as easily be applied to any interior room, log home basement or other living space. And best of all, most of the skills required are within the reach of the average handyman so you can add significant value to your home with only a modest financial investment.

This space needed to harmonize with a contemporary home, so we used a mixture of log siding and drywall in the design. We included a central fireplace as a gathering point for visitors, kitchen/bar area for entertaining, home theater, game room, guest bathroom and storage areas. To maintain the theme, we used natural materials wherever possible. We sketched out the space and made note of existing features (like the stairs, duct work, support beams and posts) so we could accommodate them in our design. We've seen basement conversions that didn't address the storage issue and that is a mistake so we framed in the corner that housed the furnace and other utilities to create a generous storage room.

Visitors are impressed with the functionality and attractiveness of the previously unused space. The extensive use of standard construction techniques allow for homeowner participation in the building process, and the use of log siding and natural materials provide for a dramatic effect. When it came to selecting the sealant and finish materials we chose the same supplier that we have used to professionally finish hundreds of homes: Perma-Chink Systems.

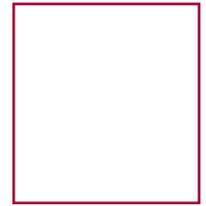
It's always fun to admire beautiful designs in log home publications, but with some creativity you too can enjoy the feeling of a log home wherever you live.

**About the Author:** *Wayne Bell* is a log home refinishing, repair and restoration contractor, serving the Midwest and southern United States from his base in Ohio. If you have questions about the materials or processes used in this project, you can contact him at 937-657-4565 or at [www.LogHomeCareOnline.com](http://www.LogHomeCareOnline.com)





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# The Log Home Care and Maintenance Authority

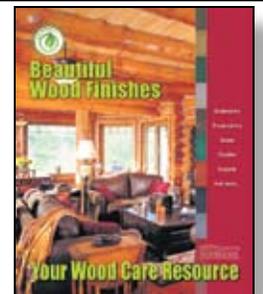
## Don't Miss Out **FREE Workshops** Spring/Summer 2011



**Free samples of many of our products are available upon request. Call your nearest Perma-Chink Systems store**

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| May 14     | Knoxville, Tennessee       |
| May 14     | Fairbanks, Alaska          |
| May 14     | Park City, Utah            |
| May 14     | Petersburg, Pennsylvania   |
| May 21     | Redmond, Washington        |
| May 21     | Plymouth, Wisconsin        |
| May 21     | Marlborough, NH            |
| May 27     | Saratoga Springs, New York |
| June 4     | Show Low, Arizona          |
| June 4     | Wasilla, Alaska            |
| June 4 & 5 | Irasburg, Vermont          |
| June 11    | Knoxville, Tennessee       |
| June 11    | Redmond, Washington        |
| June 18    | Dillon, Colorado           |
| July 9     | Rice, Minnesota            |
| July 16    | Knoxville, Tennessee       |

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