

Perma-Chink Systems News

Spring/Summer

The Wood Home Care and Maintenance Authority



See announcement on page 5

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www.permachink.com

I wish the Farm would maintain itself, but...

■ Spring log home maintenance

By Paul Peebles - Commercial Sales



My two brothers and I built a log home on a river in Tennessee in 1996 when the original farm house burned down. We simply call it the Farm. Our log cabin is far from perfect – I know all of its faults, but we love this place and spend a lot of time there on weekends and vacations. We often take friends to the cabin to fish or hunt or just to do nothing. Our parents have grown older there and our children have grown up there.

I have been in the log home maintenance business now for over 20 years. I have seen and been in thousands of log homes all over the country – from mansions to one-room cabins. But this article is about maintaining a log home. I wish the Farm would maintain itself – but it won't. Nobody likes to perform or pay for maintenance on their log home – me included. I would much rather be fishing or doing almost anything else. Having owned a log home for about fifteen years now, I have learned the hard way that routine maintenance left undone will ALWAYS end up costing you more money and time down the road.



I like the analogy of a home and the family car. The car usually gets washed fairly regularly, tune-ups are done, oil gets changed, and tires get rotated. Your home is really no different. It gets dirty, the systems in it age and need maintenance, the exterior finishes fade, and the gutters need to be cleaned out. Our homes are usually a lot bigger investment than our cars so then why do we put off the needed maintenance? The answer is because we can usually put off home maintenance without any real immediate consequences. Experience has shown that spending about \$500 per year on an average log home will save a homeowner about \$4500 over a five year period.

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I wish the Farm would maintain itself, but...

(Continued from page 1)

So, how do I begin?

Spring is the best time to begin maintenance on our log homes. I have put together a simple list of things that I do to my log home every March here in Tennessee. I hope it may help you enjoy your log home as much as I do mine.

1) Wash your home. Just like your car it gets dirty. The dirt you see on your home, if left there for a long period of time, will contribute to the growth of mildew which will cause discoloration and begin to break down the stain. Does this mean that you have to buy or rent a special power washer or other equipment? No – you only need a common garden sprayer, some soft nylon brushes on long handles, some LOG WASH (available at www.permachink.com) and your garden hose for rinsing. Simply follow the instructions on the LOG WASH container. You will spray, scrub, and then rinse. You should do this at least once every year.

2) Inspect your home. Walk around it with a critical eye on the stain, caulking and chinking. If you see discoloration, cracking, fading or peeling, then you have some more work to do. Contact Perma-Chink Systems if you are a do-it-yourselfer, but need advice or the name of an applicator or contractor who is familiar with log home maintenance. Our Customer Service Representatives are all log home specialists and can answer your questions and give you project advice. If you already have a contractor who maintains your home, point out areas where you have identified problems.

3) Clean out your gutters. This is one of the most critical areas to log home maintenance. Properly functioning gutters channel water off of your roof and away from your house. If your gutters do not function properly, you may have expensive damage to your home in the near future.

4) Trim shrubbery back at least two feet from log and foundation walls to allow air to circulate. This prevents mold, algae and mildew growth. It also keeps the branches from rubbing on and damaging log walls.

5) Consider planting some trees. This sounds funny, but trees can be a useful tool in reducing maintenance. The sun causes a great deal of damage to all building materials. Properly positioned trees can shade your home, protect the finishes on the logs and even reduce your energy bills.

6) Inspect your roof. This is not a lot of fun and not everyone can do it, but it's very necessary. Your roof is your most important line of defense against the weather. It needs to be inspected at least every other year. Inspect the roofing material – shingles, metal, shakes or slate – and all penetrations on the roof – chimneys, vents and fans. Check the valleys and all flashing.

7) Inspect your vents. Again, not too glamorous but the vents in your home are important because they remove excess moisture from your home. Moisture is created every time you cook, shower, or do laundry. The vents in your bathroom usually fail because lint or dust accumulates on the small flapper valve in the fan. When this valve does not close

properly, the cold or warm outside air can enter your home. The vent on your dryer should also be cleaned regularly to prevent fires and to ensure that moisture from drying clothes is removed from your home.

8) Stop laundry room leaks. While behind your dryer cleaning the vents, take a look at the hoses that connect your washer to the plumbing. If they are simple rubber hoses, measure them, go to the hardware store and purchase replacement hoses that are clad in braided metal. If the hoses are braided metal, but over ten years old, replace them. Broken washer hoses are the second most common cause of floods in homes. It is not a question of if they will break, but when.

9) Consider having an energy audit done on your home by an Energy Star Rater. Most log homes are as energy efficient as any home. But, like any structure, they can have faults which can be easily and inexpensively corrected. Advances in technology and building materials can also make older homes perform better for very little cost. An Energy Star Rater can come into your home and perform several tests to give you information about your house regarding insulation, air-tightness and the HVAC system.

I hope these tips help you enjoy your log home as much as my family and I enjoy our Farm and the log cabin we built. If you have questions, please call Perma-Chink Systems. We can help you with your log home – whether it is a lodge or a cabin or... a Farm!

Deck Maintenance, Cleaning & Staining

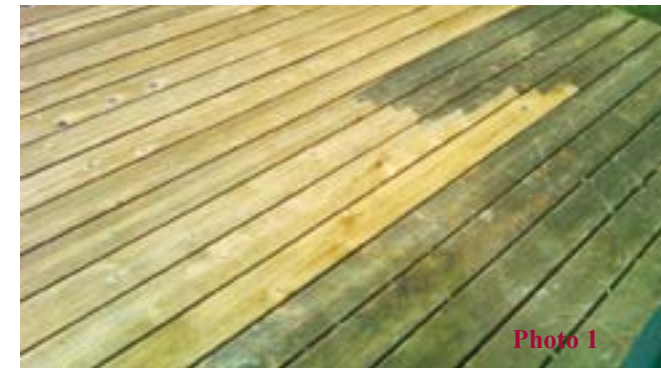
■ Preserve your decks

By Jeff Kyger - Northwest Log Home Care

Your decks and railings do not weather in a uniform fashion like your log walls. After a year or two with some deck stains, areas exposed to direct sunlight may hold little or no trace of the original finish, while shaded surfaces may show very little, if any degradation.

There are three primary elements to your deck which can maximize longevity and structural integrity as well as aesthetics. These include periodic maintenance between applications of stain, preparation of applying new stain and the staining itself.

Regardless of the stain used on your deck, its life can be extended with periodic cleaning. Pooling water can easily be swept off with a push-broom, which can help prevent premature failure of your deck stain. However, cleaning it periodically will make the biggest contribution to maximizing its life and appearance. A diluted solution of *Log Wash*™ (1 cup per gallon) can easily be applied through a garden pump sprayer (\$20 - \$30 at any garden center or hardware store) then lightly pressure washed off. If you don't have access to a pressure washer, a strong jet stream from a garden hose will also work.



For decks that may have excessive levels of dirt, mildew, green algae, etc., the mechanical action of scrubbing or using a medium bristle push broom after applying *Log Wash*™ will help a lot. Make sure to thoroughly rinse off all detergents as you never want them to dry on the wood surface.

For decks that have darkened from sun exposure with little or no stain left, a deeper pressure washing can be done to remove the darkened surface in order to get down to clean, bright wood. Photos 1 and 2 show these results.

After any sort of cleaning involving water, give the deck ample time to dry before staining. This could take anywhere from several hours to several days, depending on the condition of your wood, hardness, species, temperature and other factors. A light refresher coat of stain applied on top of your existing stain (after cleaning the surface) will increase its aesthetics and give additional UV protection. Maximum adhesion, protection and performance always take place when a fresh coat of stain is applied to bare wood that has been properly prepared.

The vast majority of UV protection is provided by pigments in your stain, whether it is for the deck or your log walls. *Lifeline Ultra-7*™ is the most durable stain that Perma-Chink Systems has ever developed. As a result of its state-of-the-art resins, it allows your wood to breath unlike heavy linseed oil based stains. Call Perma-Chink Systems customer service for additional information or to request a sample bottle of *Lifeline Ultra-7*™ stain.

Northwest Log Home Care 425-891-6665
www.northwestloghomecare.com

Avenbury Lakes Community Lodge

■ Team up with Log Home Care

Avenbury Lakes is an active adult community of 352 individual homes, in Avon, Ohio just west of Cleveland, located near the shores of Lake Erie.

At the center of the 147 acre parcel of land, among three stocked fishing lakes, 23 acres of wetlands and miles of walking trails, the Avenbury Homeowners Association maintains a 10,000 square foot Lodge which houses group meeting rooms, offices, workout facilities and both indoor and outdoor swimming pools. The Lodge features a blend of log and rustic cedar siding, using post and beam elements, over a stone façade base. Years of exposure to harsh lake effect weather left the original finish on the Lodge and several smaller gazebo and picnic pavilion structures needing attention.

A Board of Directors oversees the Homeowners Association. Donna Lambert, Property Manager for Lawrence Community Management Group, Inc., runs the day-to-day operations of the complex. Her responsibilities include developing and managing subcontractors to take care of all aspects of upkeep. She and her maintenance employee, Lenny Evans, researched thoroughly before contacting Perma-Chink Systems for further information.

Donna reports, "I was impressed by the Perma-Chink Systems web site with so many testimonials from clients. As a property manager, my job is to find the right contractor to do an excellent job at an excellent price without sacrificing quality. I look for companies with a history of success. I check references and Better Business Bureau reports. If a company is too busy to make a face to face visit to the sight, I go elsewhere. We want to begin a lifelong relationship with each of the companies we deal with," Donna reports.

Eric Huff, of Perma-Chink Systems outside sales team, met with Donna and the Board to review their project and make product recommendations. Donna continues, "We were particularly impressed that Eric took the time to explain not only why Perma-Chink Systems products work, but provided samples and hands-on training to evaluate the products for ourselves. We were amazed at how responsive and generous Eric was with his time and resources."



That product testing and evaluation led the Board to select *Lifeline Ultra-7* finish for the project. When it became apparent that completing the project on schedule would require outside assistance, Donna once again turned to Perma-Chink Systems for a referral list of qualified Application Contractors experienced with Perma-Chink products. After interviewing several prospective Contractors and checking references to look at their completed projects, the Board selected Wayne Bell and the crew of Log Home Care for the job.



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Avenbury Lakes Community Lodge

(Continued from page 4)

"It was our pleasure to work with Wayne and Log Home Care. From the onset of securing bids I knew he was uniquely professional. He was the first person to call me back and the first person to make time to come to the site and look at the project. It was apparent that our project was important to him from the very beginning. He fit right in and worked well with our Board, staff and residents. He has a gift for dealing with people and seems to have never met a stranger. Our community is all about involvement and service, so Wayne and his crew were a great fit for us. Our residents interacted with Wayne as the crew did their work and he welcomed their opinions and comments. Our residents are still commenting on the company that stained our wood structures and what a great job the Board of Directors did in choosing them!" Donna reports.

"Working with a Board of Directors can be somewhat intimidating," Wayne commented. "In my experience getting a group of individuals of any size to agree on selecting stain colors and types can be a challenge. This Board is comprised of well educated professionals, and they certainly completed their due diligence".

"After additional meetings and product sampling, the Board agreed on Perma-Chink Systems *Lifeline Ultra-7* wood finish because it offers superior coverage and the ability to provide years of trouble free protection with minimal future maintenance requirements. The Board selected Bronze *Ultra-7* with gloss topcoat of *Lifeline Advance*, and has been delighted with the results. This

is not our first large scale project using *Lifeline Ultra-7* and we have had nothing but outstanding results with the product."

Donna sums up the experience, "As a property manager, it doesn't get any better than finding a supplier/contractor team to do maintenance like Perma-Chink Systems and Log Home Care. They are the whole package...each an outstanding company, with reputable representatives, experienced suppliers with professional presence and products you can count on for a very long time. Whether staining a 10,000 square foot lodge or a private home, there's no reason to look any further than to Perma-Chink Systems and Log Home Care!"



Before



After

Resources:
Log Home Care
Springboro, Ohio 45066.
Wayne Bell - owner
937-657-4565
wayne@loghomecareonline.com

PERMA-CHINK SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

March 5, 2012

REDMOND – Perma-Chink Systems, Inc. has launched a very new website. As technology is ever changing, we felt it was time our website grew up a little bit, not just aesthetically but also in content and functionality. Our goal is to provide a high level of service for our customers every day. We realized it was time to bring a high level of service to our website too.

We have integrated many new features including social media plug-ins. We want to communicate and connect with you on all your favorite sites- Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We too are joining the social media conversation and hope that you will engage in conversation with us!

Most importantly, the new version of our website puts our free training and education resources front and center. We want to provide you with the knowledge needed to "do it right" the first time. On our home page you can find a list of upcoming workshops that offer free hands-on training. There is also a convenient link to sign up for individual training via the internet with one of our wood care Specialists.

We've worked hard to be "Your Wood Care Resource" and offer the highest standards of service to you, our customers every day, and now we hope to show you through our website.

CHECK US OUT ON
WWW.PERMACHINK.COM

■ Paying it Forward

By Terry Anderson - Midwest Commercial Sales

I feel that God has blessed me and my family in many ways. I have been married to my beautiful wife Sharon for 27 years and have three beautiful daughters, Melissa, Ashley and Caitlyn. I also have two wonderful grandchildren, Emma and Kyle.

God has also blessed me with many talents, one of which is my ability to draw and paint. I was asked by my youngest daughter to help on a very special project this past December.

Caitlyn is 21 years old and a junior attending the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Her major is Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. She is also a member of the UW Oshkosh Delta Tau Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta. Autism Speaks is the chapter's philanthropy. Caitlyn has been working with autistic children through a company here in Wisconsin for the last two years.

One of the boys, Bryson Dahllins attends Syble Hopp School for Special Needs Students in De Pere, WI. Brysson, who is eleven years old and the oldest of the three boys, has a form of autism known as non-verbal autism. He lights up the room with his smile and his big hardy laugh. Both his parents Brian and Amy are very involved in the school. Amy also co-chairs the annual Syble Hopp School Winter Blast.

I painted a pair of ice skates for Brian and Amy as a Christmas gift from Caitlyn. After receiving the skates Amy asked Caitlyn if she thought her dad would like to share his talents for a very special cause.

When Caitlyn approached me I was a bit apprehensive not knowing what was going to be expected of me. Amy had asked that I paint some ceramic pieces to be used for the benefit auctions during the Winter Blast Event. I have done numerous glazed pieces throughout the years, but never painted actual scenes and wording on any pieces.



The main piece I did is the plate pictured with Brysson and me. I am honored to say that the plate brought in \$475 and the other pieces brought in over \$500.

The highlight of the evening for me was the ceramic piece that Caitlyn and Brysson had worked on together. It was the first piece to be offered during the live auction and it brought in \$900. The looks on Brian's, Amy's and Caitlyn's faces were priceless.

We all go through our daily lives taking so much for granted. I am one of those too, as I get caught up in the rush of my day to day activities. Being able to share and be part of this extraordinary event was very gratifying and rewarding.

For all of you out there with a family member or friend that has special needs God bless all of you.



Company Stores

Washington/Western Division

Redmond, WA 98052
1-800-548-1231

Tennessee/Eastern Division

Knoxville, TN 37914
1-800-548-3554
Sevierville, TN 37862
1-800-548-3554

Minnesota Branch

Rice, MN 56367
1-877-244-6548

Colorado Branch

Rifle, CO 81650
1-800-433-8781

Montana Branch

Stevensville, MT 59870
1-800-479-7090

Pennsylvania Branch

Petersburg, PA 16669
1-800-257-4864

www.permachink.com

Stocking Distributors

Canadian Log Home Supply,

Central & Eastern Canada
1-800-746-7773
www.canadianloghomesupply.com

Hess Log Home Supplies,

Pennsylvania
1-800-257-4864
www.hessloghomesupplies.com

Log Home Center,

Indiana
1-800-773-6223
www.loghomecenter.com

Steels Industrial Products, Ltd.,

Western Canada
1-877-846-7502
www.steels.com

Timeless Wood Care Products,

Michigan
1-800-564-2987
www.timelesswoodcare.com

Renovation in Tennessee #4

■ Prepared to Deal with Unexpected

By Tony Huddleston

Where we left off in the last issue, we had finished minor repairs of delamination on the upper wall logs and had repaired some areas of minor decay. We mentioned that there was some unexpected damage found around the area where the air conditioning duct work entered the home. Once we removed the duct work, it was found the installation of the cooling system duct work had allowed water to constantly seep and run behind the flashing at the point where it was attached to the logs. Over time the trapped water had done its damage and caused the bottom log section in that area to decay fairly deeply into the log. We determined it would be best to remove the decayed wood and take the necessary steps to try to prevent this from reoccurring.

We used a multi-tool to make horizontal cuts beyond the decayed areas and remove the rotted areas until we found sound wood. Once all that was removed we applied a treatment of *Shell Guard*® to prohibit additional decay in those areas. To restore some integrity to the wood, we applied *M-Balm*® wood epoxy to reconsolidate the entire area where the decayed wood had been removed. We then installed the re-facing on the logs. (see photo above)

Once the filling and re-facing was accomplished, we sealed the areas with *E-Wood*® epoxy putty to stop any water, and ground the areas to match the color levels of the older log surfaces. We then pre-stained the new wood with *Lifeline Ultra-7* so the final application of stain



would match the old wood and be less noticeable on the finished project.

Having completed these unexpected repairs, we then moved onto the final phases of the restoration which were planned. Since the thermography test had indicated excessive air infiltration around the windows and doors, we removed all of the trim on the windows and doors, in order to see what unexpected issues may lurking behind in those areas.

Over the years, there had been very little effort made to properly seal the areas around the door and window jambs, so the air was free to come and go as it pleased. Apparently this was also the original trim installed when the home was built. There were no "kerfs" cut above the trim to allow the installation of flashing. Over time the trim had pulled away from the logs, allowing water to run down the wall and behind the trim into the home. Surprisingly, there was no decay found in any of these areas. The water was free to run out, so the wood had time to dry and not hold water so the chances for decay were lessened.

Due to the age of the home, all of the settling and shrinkage had already taken

place. We completely sealed the areas around the windows with *Energy Seal*® to prohibit air or water from entering around the spaces between the window and the jamb areas. After this, it will be time to apply the rest of the *Prelude*® clear coat to the west wall before installing the backer rod in all areas to be sealed with *Energy Seal*® and *Check Mate 2*®. All of the butt joints will be sealed with *Energy Seal*® after installing backer rod and all of the upward checks will be sealed with *Check Mate 2*® to prevent rot and decay.

For some very important finishing touches, we prepare exposed log ends prior to applying the stain and *Log End Seal*®. This will prevent water from wicking back through any split ends or exposed fibers left from cross cutting at the ends. We sand the ends prior to staining so the color will match the log walls.

Now the house is prepared and it becomes "decision time" for the homeowner. Color choice. Seal before stain or seal after stain. In the next issue we will discuss why these decisions are important. Stay tuned!



Introducing **LIFELINE ACCENTS™** with new exciting eco-friendly transparent colors!



We offer a complete line of specialized sealants, stains, finishes, preservatives and cleaners made for the unique needs of log, timber and wood-trimmed homes.

Free Samples and Catalog

The Wood Home Care and Maintenance Authority

Don't Miss Out FREE Workshops Spring/Summer 2012



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|----------|----------------------|
| April 21 | Knoxville, Tennessee |
| April 28 | Redmond, Washington |
| May 5 | Wasilla, Alaska |
| May 6 | Kenai, Alaska |
| May 19 | Rice, Minnesota |
| May 19 | Knoxville, Tennessee |
| June 2 | Fairbanks, Alaska |
| June 16 | Knoxville, Tennessee |
| July 21 | Knoxville, Tennessee |

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

Join our E-Mailing List and learn more about our products.



**Perma-Chink Systems
Free Product Catalog**



order online at:

www.permachink.com

Individual Training Now Available



Using secure web conference technology, we now offer individual training to homeowners via the internet.

You will be able to share 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!