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LOG HOME SUPPLY, INC.**  
*Distribution Locations:*  
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# Log Core

*Inside Log Help For Those Into Log Buildings*

## Bringing Clarity to Clear Coat Maintenance

By Charis Babcock from Sashco, Inc.

Maintenance with a clear top coat over an elastomeric log stain is pretty great.

- **Easiest application** – apply even with a garden sprayer
- **No lap marks** – two layers of clear is . . . still clear
- **Protects the underlying stain from discoloration**
- **Maintenance coats won't darken the home over time**
- **Won't discolor your chinking**

Everyone knows that a \$30 oil change two or three times a year beats a \$2,000 mechanic's bill. Routine maintenance and re-application of your clear coat is no different. Taking a weekend or two every couple of years to apply a fresh clear coat will be the difference between keeping your stain in tip top shape or paying \$20,000 for a complete redo. (Eek!)

So, what exactly does a clear coat do? (In this case, Sashco's Cascade® clear coat)

First, UV filters in Cascade® protect the underlying Capture® Log Stain from discoloration. While slight discoloration isn't entirely avoidable in a semi-transparent stain, keeping up on Cascade® maintenance will slow down the discoloration process.

Second, Cascade® contains the majority of the water repellency of the two-part Capture® and Cascade® system. Keeping up on Cascade® maintenance means a home that is protected from rain and snow.

So, how do you know it's time for another clear coat? It all starts with an inspection.

Check your logs twice a year: once in the spring for any winter damage, and once in the fall for any summer damage. In particular, look for the following:



**Loss of sheen:** Cascade® has a satin sheen to it. It will erode away more quickly in the highly exposed areas. Take a look at your logs in the sun. It will be easy to tell where it's worn off. Clean the surface, and apply more.

**Loss of moisture shedding:** Take a hose or spray bottle to the walls. If water is still sheeting off, you're in good shape. If not, time for a maintenance coat.

**Discoloration of Capture®:** If you notice significant fading or darkening of the Capture® Log Stain, it's likely the Cascade® has been gone for a while. You may need to do a re-coat of both products.

The good news: you don't need to re-coat the whole house every time. Apply more Cascade® where needed, when needed. It's likely the north side or any side protected by a porch can go several years without a re-coat, while that south wall that's fully exposed may need re-application on those lower courses every two years. Your home is unique, so maintenance schedules will be, too. In the end, it should only take you one weekend a year to do the work. Once it's done, sit back, pat yourself on the back, enjoy an iced tea, and get on with life.

See More Online



## GLLCA RECAP



The first weekend in June the Great Lakes Log Crafters Association met for its annual conference. The group of handcrafted log builders, owner-builders, and associate members share ideas and tips for handcrafted log homes via newsletter articles and an annual conference for discussions and demonstrations. The conference destination moves from year to year to a chosen location in Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Michigan.

This year GLLCA members met in Bemidji, Minnesota, and the conference began with an educational project when members joined the crew of Heim Log Homes to put up a log picnic pavilion in Bemidji's Cameron Park.

The two days following the pavilion assembly were filled with discussions and demonstrations, including one on dovetail notches by Donovan Dums of The Natural Log Home. Mark Webber demonstrated a jig for rounding out chair seats, and he later demonstrated chainsaw carving techniques for turning scraps from log notches into gorgeous wooden feather wall hangings (one of which is now hanging in our lobby at Schroeder Log Home Supply!). Duane Sellman of Sellman Log Structures led a presentation on wavy, naturally edged window trim. Hank Petit demonstrated and discussed chainsaw sharpening techniques.

In addition to individual presentations, as per usual there were several round table discussions of tech talk. Members shared new and old tools they've discovered and have found useful. Also a highlight of the conference was a 'field trip' to Creative Wood Treating north of Bemidji where Jamie Olson pressure-treats timbers with borate preservative.

Schroeder Log Home Supply is proud to have been part of the Great Lakes Log Crafters Association for most of its 30 years. Membership with the organization is a great way to keep the grand tradition of handcrafted log homes alive in America. Join the group at [www.gllca.org](http://www.gllca.org)





## MEET THE STAFF:

Summertime gets busy in the log home supply industry, and so every spring we bring in the extra forces. For a number of years, Pam Clairmont and Chris Kavanaugh have been joining us for the building season to take orders and offer technical support.

Pam has been at Schroeder Log Home Supply since 2003. She enjoys having winters off because it gives her time to travel with her retired husband. She enjoys helping people solve problems and determining the needs for their log homes or other projects. She says there are always new things to learn and that she loves being a part of the Schroeder team because her co-workers are wonderful and make it a joy.

Pam likes the field of building and does a lot of projects at home with her husband, Guy. He is a chainsaw artist and Pam helps painting or staining his completed work. Pam also enjoys gardening, travel, and spending



**CSRS: CHRIS KAVANAUGH  
& PAM CLAIRMONT**

time with her grandkids. She has two adult sons: Guy Jr lives in Grand Rapids, MN, with his wife Heidi and two children, Kate and Jack. Her other son, Jayson, lives in Fargo with his wife Jessica and three children Arianna, Bell, and Sam.

Chris has been at Schroeder Log Home Supply off and on since 1996. When at work, she loves the opportunity to speak with people from all over the United States and Canada. Chris also loves the enjoyment of satisfying people with the help she gives them. With her log-sided house, she has firsthand knowledge of applying stain and sealer, which helps her give insight to others' situations.

Outside of work Chris likes to quilt and embroider. She also loves fishing and photography.

Chris says she loves working at SLHS, she loves what she does and the people she works with. She says every day is an adventure and she thinks she learns something new everyday!

It's great to have Pam and Chris with us each summer, because they bring years of experience along with their joy and kinship.

## LOG HOME PESTS: WOODPECKERS



in eaves, exterior log surfaces, window frames, and trim boards. Caulking and chinking between the logs are susceptible to attacks by woodpeckers, especially if insects are present in the logs. Natural colored finishes and stained wood surfaces are typically preferred over painted wood.

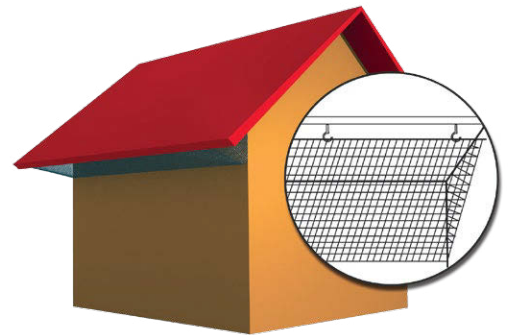
Not only can woodpeckers do physical damage to log homes, they can also produce annoying "drumming" sounds. Drumming is the term for the rhythmic pecking of surfaces that include metal gutters and downspouts, chimney caps, TV antennas, metal roofing, and metal garbage cans.

### Prevention

The most effective long-term method has been the use of bird netting for minimizing damage to eaves. The plastic netting is attached to the edge of the eaves and then angled back to the side of the house. When installed properly, the netting is barely visible from a distance (or can be spray painted to approximate the color of the home).

### Treatment

Scaring woodpeckers away with the use of loud noises has been done with some success. Controlling insects also reduces the likelihood of woodpecker damage. See Chinking Damaged by Birds on page 69.



**Plastic netting is shown attached from the outside edge of the eave and angled back to the siding. The insert shows a method of attaching the netting with hooks and wooden dowels.**

Woodpeckers can also be a nuisance to your log home, doing considerable damage to logs, wood siding, and chinking. Woodpeckers generally do the most damage from February through June, which is the time for territory establishment and the breeding season.

The damage to log buildings can take several forms. Holes are often drilled

**Excerpt from [The Log Home Maintenance Guide](#) page 49.**

# Happy 4th of July!



## CALENDAR:

Independence Day	July 4th	Offices Closed
Labor Day	Sept. 5th	Offices Closed
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24th-25th	Offices Closed

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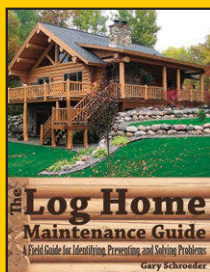


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## RESTORATION SPECIAL



We are often asked how to restore rotten logs. We suggest [The Log Home Maintenance Guide](#). It reveals tips and tricks for using wood epoxies for log home restoration. To help you get started with your restoration project, we now offer a 15% Discount off *The Log Home Maintenance Guide* when you buy any wood epoxy products like [LiquidWood](#), [WoodEpoxy](#), [M-Balm](#), [E-Wood](#), or the [Wood Restoration Kit](#) and this book. If you call in your order, just ask for the "Restoration Special". If you order online, your discount will be applied after we receive your order. Offer good for one book per order.

## NEW TOOL TALK:

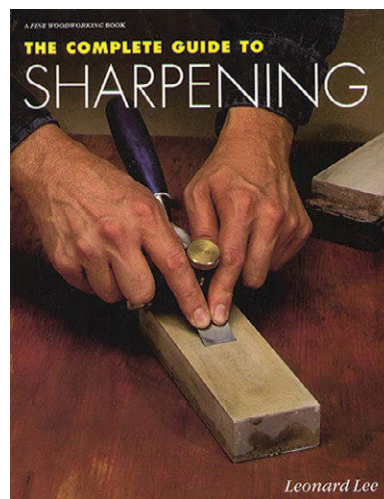


### THE GRÄNSFORS CERAMIC GRINDING STONE

A man-made sharpening stone with two grinding faces: a course side (180 grit) for repairing damage and heavy wear, and a fine side (600 grit) for sharpening axes.

The ceramic composite makes the stone both durable and strong. In contrast to natural sandstone, a ceramic grinding stone can be given a more precise grain size. Its shape is round and flat with a bevelled edge to prevent chipping. The fine side is 2/3 of the thickness, as this side is usually used and worn down most. The stone is normally used with water but can be used dry. The stone comes in a protective rubber case. It has a 2.2" diameter and weights 6.5 oz. T074-4034 \$50.00

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### THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHARPENING

Leonard Lee explains in common sense terms the fastest, most effective ways to sharpen all your wood-working tools, from chisels to drill bits. You'll get better edges than razor blades, and you'll learn how to shape them to cut better and stay sharp longer. Learn the differences between natural vs. man-made abrasives, understanding grinding wheels, honing guides, setting angles, and much more! Leonard Lee is a woodworker and toolmaker. He researches, designs, and manufactures tools, jigs, and sharpening systems. He is president of Veritas Tools and Lee Valley Tools. 245 pages. (Softcover).

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