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LifeTime Sale
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LOG HOME SUPPLY, INC.
Grand Rapids, MN

LOG CORE

Inside Log Help For Those Into Log Buildings

CAMO YOUR CRACKS

By Robert G. Kenel, Sashco, Inc.
Courtesy of the [GLLCA](#)

Checking is a natural occurrence that occurs in wood as it dries and acclimates to the surrounding atmospheric conditions. There are some things that can help reduce the effect of checking. Radial checking is the most common. That's when the log shrinks as moisture is removed. To give you a better idea of how that looks. Picture the growth rings of the tree as a length of rope. It breaks as the wood dries. Now think of the length of rope, it will shrink in length and get shorter. The longer the rope the more it will shrink. As these checks occur some will be bigger and others smaller as the logs reach specific gravity (G). You can see more in the [ICC 400 Log Standards](#) section 302.

Those checks can be seen exterior and interior, horizontal, and vertical. While some see them as part of the log, others find them very displeas-



ing. Besides the appearance there are some things that need to be addressed when checks are on the exterior of a structure. Foremost, upward facing checks are like gutters, collecting water in all its forms. This water becomes trapped and is absorbed in the wood fibers. It then starts to decay the wood internally where it can not be seen. Even if the logs look fine on the exterior, stain and sealers are doing their job. The hidden damages can cause expensive log replacement.



Bigger checks of 1" or more I like to cut out a taper in the check. Using a small saw, I use a small electric chain saw, in which I cut tapers within the check making sure to go all the way to the very ends of the check. This is important as you can not caulk or seal those small ends properly. I do this for two reasons. One, to make a space for the wooden wedge I cut to fit the check. Two to cut out all the splinters to create a good fit for the [backer strips](#) required before caulking. On the job site I will use a 2X and circular saw set at angle to cut the wooden wedge. These I like to make a bit bigger so they extend beyond the log. That way I can grind off to fit. I fill the checks with either [powder](#) or [liquid borates](#) using a squeeze bottle. Like from a dish soap or ketchup bottle. I use glue to adhere the wedges. A good all weather adhesive I use is UltraTech 0770 ADA by Loctite®. After

the wedge dries is fully dried, grinded down and sanded. I can then match the [stain and finish](#) as needed.

For checks that do not need wood, proceed with the same method but use backer strips that fit the check. They come in many sizes. The use of backer is very important as it creates that all important two point adhesion that bonds much better and allows the product to stretch properly. If backer is not used product could pull from the wood and there is no mid point of expansion to stretch. Follow the curves of the check with the saw and backer. Again, don't forget the [borates](#). A proper backer in inserted in the check is 1/4" – 3/8" below the surface of the face of the log. This gives a depth that will hold a good amount of caulk, but not wasting by using too much. Tool using water mixed with a little dish soap. You can use a [small brush](#) with hair or foam. Wipe any excess off with a rag wiping in the same direction each time. I like using caulk designed for applications I am doing. Textured products like [Conceal](#) have grits that make it much less noticeable when dry. Other [caulks](#) are very smooth, and wood is not so much. Colors change as they dry so always do a test area first. Stain can also be applied over these areas after proper curing.



When Mixing Powdered Borates

like [Armor-Guard](#) or [PeneTreat \(Tim-bor\)](#), using warm water helps the borate salts dissolve faster and more thoroughly. Also, wet the wood with clear water before application to help absorption into the wood.

Name That Insect



A wasp, a sawfly, or something else?
The answer is found on the last page.



BENCH & FRAMING CHISELS

By Paul VanKeuren, Customer Service

Woodworking is simpler more pleasurable when you choose the right tool for the job.

When it comes to chisels, we stock two varieties, Bench Chisels, and Framing Chisels. When looking at the two side by side, you may notice that the [Framing Chisels](#) are much longer than the Bench Chisels. That is because they are intended for the construction of timber frame structures. When joining together beams, you may need to chisel out a mortise that goes through the whole piece, and having that extra length makes it possible.



The [Bench Chisels](#) may be used just as hard, and require just as much durability and sharpness. However, because they are used at the 'work bench' they are shorter and easier to handle up close than the Framing Chisels. If you are choosing a chisel for yourself or a friend, be sure to select one designed for the task in mind.

Chisel Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Old Northern French, based on Latin *cis-* (as in late Latin *cisorium*), variant of *caes-*, stem of *caedere* 'to cut'. Compare with scissors.

Source: [Oxford Advanced American Dictionary](#)

WOOD WASPS



Female Horntail

Wood Wasps

Aka Parasitic or Solitary Wasps

Horntails are of the family Siricidae. They are over an inch in size and are wasp-like in appearance, but do not have the narrow waist commonly associated with bees and wasps. The females have long ovipositors protruding from their abdomens that they use to inject eggs into wood. Once hatched, the larvae feed and tunnel through both sapwood and heartwood. Like the round-headed borers, they can chew through plasterboard and hardwood flooring, though the damage they do is only cosmetic. The female lays only a few eggs at a time, and they will not reinfest.

Potter or Mason wasps (pictured with a dime) are of the subfamily Eumenidae of the Vespidae family. They range from 10- to 20-mm in length. They do not bore into wood, instead, they utilize existing holes for nesting. The adult chews wood only to collect pulp for nesting cavities. They harvest wood beetle larva and caterpillars for food for their young. Their larva are non-woodboring.



Other parasitic wasps like the *Orussus Terminalis* of the family Orussidae are grouped with sawflies and range in size from 8- to 14-mm. Nine species are found in North America. The larva feed on the larva of metallic wood borers (Buprestid, page 36). Like the Potter wasp, they too utilize existing holes.



Orussus Terminalis

Prevention

The use of borate wood preservatives such as [Armor Guard](#), [Boracol 20-2](#), [PeneTreat \(Tim-bor\)](#), or [Shell-Guard RTU](#) and coating the wood with a finish will help to make infestation more difficult. A finish that contains a surface insecticide additive like [Bug Juice](#) is also an effective deterrent to infestation.

Treatment

As a spot treatment, inject approved insecticides into holes with a [glue syringe](#). Once the [insecticide](#) has been applied, seal tunnel entrances by pounding in wooden dowels or by using [caulking](#), wood putty, [E-Wood](#), [WoodEpoxy](#), or a mixture of wood epoxy and sawdust. See more about wood epoxies on pages 136–142.

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 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.



Excerpt from *The Log Home Maintenance Guide* - page 41.



CALENDAR

Independence Day	July 3rd (Observed)	Office Closed
Labor Day	Sept. 7th	Office Closed
Daylight Savings	Nov. 1st	Clocks Back
Thanksgiving	Nov. 26-27th	Office Closed

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DID YOU KNOW?

Solitary wasps and bees will utilize beetle exit holes to place food and eggs within. Once placed, the insects will create a dirt wall to seal off the hole. Once the offspring hatch, they bore a tiny hole through the dirt wall and leave the log. The small amount of powdered dirt that is left behind can be mistaken as signs of a beetle infestation. However, the bees or wasps do not harm the wood and are only using it for nesting purposes.



To Avoid: Fill any existing beetle holes with a quality [caulk](#) or [chinking](#).
To Remedy: Clean off any existing dirt and seal all holes with a quality caulk or chinking. Borates like [Tim-bor](#) or an approved [insecticide](#) can be injected into the holes before sealing as well.

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Name That Insect



Answer: Winged Carpenter Ant. Carpenter Ants can sometimes be a problem if wood remains moist and wood rot occurs. If they are a problem, treat with [Tim-bor](#) or an approved [insecticide](#). Also look for the cause of the moisture and try to eliminate it. See more about Carpenter Ants [here](#).