

## **Enjoying the Log Home Lifestyle**

Would you like to make coming home feel like going on vacation? Beachfront homes are hard to come by, with a limited amount of coastal land available. A log home may be the answer for you! You don't have to live in the mountains to enjoy log home living; log homes are found in cities and towns across America.

During the National Log Home Open House in July, members of the National Association of Home Builders' Log Homes Council are inviting Americans to experience log home living, by hosting model home tours, log raising demonstrations, factory tours, seminars and more.

Today's log homes include amenities and options not found in the log cabins of the past. People are often initially drawn to log homes because of the unique architectural qualities of the structure, but they soon realize log homes have the same lifestyle amenities found in traditional homes, including open floor plans, multi-media rooms, master suites, garages and more. Log homes also feature exceptional craftsmanship, with branch-like spindles and balustrades on handcrafted staircases, hand-scribed timbers in the cathedral ceilings, and more.

If you think a log home is a leaky, drafty energy guzzler, think again. Log homes are both environmentally- and energy-friendly.

A properly-constructed log home is sealed between the foundation and the first course of logs, between log-to-log connections and where the roof system meets the log wall. Wood has "thermal mass," a natural property in the logs that allows log walls to collect and store energy, then radiate it back into the home. This helps keep the inside temperatures of homes comfortable in all seasons.

Many log home manufacturers use low-VOC caulks, glues, and paints to improve indoor-air quality. VOCs, or volatile organic compounds, vaporize into the air and react with other elements to produce ozone, causing air pollution and possible health issues.

Log homes are green, because trees are a renewable resource. With a home made from solid logs, you are effectively taking the carbon contained in those logs out of environmental

circulation over the life of the home. Log walls reduce global warming and reduce greenhouse gases by providing a structural shell and thermal envelope with a system that does not involve fossil fuel-intensive products.

Many log homes are built using recycled building materials and environmentally sound techniques in the homes so they are in compliance with the NAHB's National Green Building Standard.

Log homes are quiet, due to the same thermal mass that provides the energy efficiency. The solid mass of a wood wall reduces noise transmission and the profile of the log (the angle, shape, and texture of the log surface) deflects sound.

Finally, log homes are durable. There are log homes still in use in Europe that date back more than 800 years, and one log-constructed church in Russia is reportedly more than 1,700 years old.

To find a National Log Home Open House in July event, a Log Homes Council member builder, or more information about log homes, go to [www.loghomes.org](http://www.loghomes.org) or contact your local home builders association at **[insert contact info here]**.