Log Cabin Aftercare

After your cabin has been installed there are a number of actions that need to be completed to ensure your cabin is rot proof, weatherproof and watertight. Carrying out these steps will ensure your Log Cabin is durable and long lasting.

This document provides details on the following tasks and the best way to accomplish these tasks.

1. Treating the cabin against rot.
2. Applying a weatherproofing finish to the cabin.
3. Sealing the doors and windows (must be completed after treating and finishing is complete).
4. How to adjust the doors.

Applying the preservative and finishing coats to your cabin must be completed before applying silicone to the windows and doors as once the silicone is in place it will repel the treatment during application.

To validate your warranty, it is important that you provide the correct application of preservative to your cabin within 7 days of installation, and the correct application of a weatherproofing finish within 14 days (see below for treatment requirements).

1. Protecting Against Rot

Your Log Cabin comes in an untreated form, (except for the bearers which do come treated as they are in direct contact with the ground). This makes your log cabin particularly susceptible to airborne fungi, including all rot causing fungi, Mildew, and Blue Stain. A moisture content within the timber of 20% and above creates the perfect environment for these fungi to thrive.

Before applying a weatherproofing treatment to your log cabin, you must apply a wood preservative to both the inside and outside of your log cabin, guided by the manufacturer's recommendations.
Always remember, a log cabin is classed as an outbuilding so just as with any other type of outbuilding the interior of a log cabin must be treated exactly the same as the exterior!

You can use a water based or solvent based wood preserver, there is no preference, but in addition to rot, always ensure the wood preserver is effective against surface dwelling fungi such as Mould, Mildew, and Blue Stain. Not all preservatives are effective against these types of fungi.

In addition to the above, try and allow a gap around the perimeter of your log cabin of at least 30cm (1ft). This will allow air to flow around the cabin keeping the surface of the timber dry and preventing airborne fungi from taking hold.

2. Weatherproofing Your Log Cabin

In order for your warranty to remain valid, you must weatherproof your log cabin by applying **3 coats** of either of the following wood finishes to both the **exterior and interior** of your log cabin:

1. Timmersol Exterior Timber Stabiliser (or 1 colour coat of a water-based finish of your choice and 2 coats of Timmersol ETS – see below).

2. Restol Wood Oil.

Whichever of the above finishes you choose must be applied **within 14 days** of installation of your log cabin. Of the 2 treatments listed, we recommend Timmersol Exterior Timber Stabiliser as our finish of choice for your log cabin.

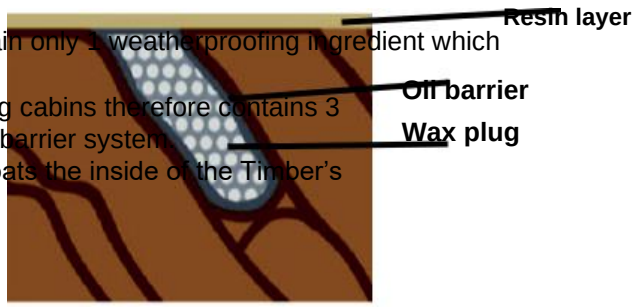
Why do we recommend Timmersol Exterior Timber Stabiliser?

1. Timmersol ETS outperformed a number of other weatherproofing treatments we tested in the field, over a number of years.

2. Timmersol ETS is a professional quality finish designed specifically for log cabins.

3. Timmersol ETS can be applied standalone using one of their colours, or by applying their Clear over a water-based colour of your choice, such as Cuprinol, Ronseal, Sadolin, etc (see below), providing complete protection for your log cabin without compromising your choice of colour.

4. Virtually all treatments currently on the market contain only 1 weatherproofing ingredient which is not suitable to cope with the movement of a log cabin. Timmersol ETS is designed specifically for log cabins therefore contains 3 weatherproofing ingredients giving it a unique triple barrier system. Firstly, oil is suspended in the solvent carrier and coats the inside of the Timber's cells. Secondly, the wax sits on top of the oil coat and forms a plug in the cells. Finally, Alkyd and polyurethane resins form a microscopic barrier over the surface of the cells. As the solvent evaporates, the oil thickens, and the wax hardens but remains flexible. The resin settles on top of the cells and dries hard. When a second or third coat is applied the solvent reactivates the wax, oil, and resin and allows the additional coats to blend with previous coats. The more coats applied the deeper the finish penetrates into the pores.



If a water-based colour is used as a base coat, the solvent in Timmersol ETS reactivates the ingredients of the colour coat, allowing the oil and wax to penetrate the timber's cells, and the resin content provides a protective layer on top of the colour coat.
For more information go to www.timmersol.co.uk

Why do I need to apply a weatherproofing finish to my log cabin?

Your log cabin needs to be protected from rainwater, and more importantly, atmospheric moisture known as relative humidity. The UK has one of the most diverse weather patterns in the world with relative humidity levels fluctuating between 0% and 100% on a seasonal basis, and average annual rainfall of 133 days of the year, totalling 34 inches.

Timber will constantly try to reach a moisture content equilibrium with its surrounding environment causing the cells of the wood to continually expand and contract. In addition, any untreated timber exposed to rain, or water in general, can expand rapidly. This constant movement leads to issues such as contraction, expansion, twisting, warping, splitting, bowing, cupping, and many more potential problems. In fact, the largest percentage of timber related issues are causally linked to movement.

The construction of a log cabin is based on a 'free floating' wall system. The logs are held in place by the joints on each end of the log, and a double tongue & groove system running longitudinally down the top and bottom of each log. The weight of the roof ensures the logs continually stay interlocked, but if contraction of the log cabin timber is too severe, then this can cause gapping between the logs, in addition to other problems.

Rainwater causes minor fluctuations in the movement of timber, but atmospheric moisture is the main cause of timber movement and the objective of weatherproofing the cabin is to provide a protective barrier around as much of the timber as possible to slow the absorption and desorption of this moisture. This is why we stipulate that the interior of a cabin must also be treated, as moisture will penetrate the timber on the interior of the cabin just as easily as it does on the exterior of the cabin.

Time and space permitting, treating the underside of the floorboards and the topside of the roofboards, and the overlapping joints of each log, will dramatically reduce the ingress points for atmospheric moisture, again helping to decrease the rate of absorption and desorption of moisture.

How much treatment do I need?

Below you will find a list of all of the log cabins in our current range and the requirements for each, based on the minimum requirement of either 1 x colour coat and 2 coats of Timmersol ETS, or 3 coats of Timmersol ETS or Restol Wood Oil, you will need:

	1 x colour coat	**2 x coats of Timmersol ETS**	**3 x coats of Timmersol ETS or Restol Wood Oil**
Haresfield	10 litres	20 litres	30 litres
Harescombe	10 litres	20 litres	30 litres
Kimbrey	10 litres	20 litres	30 litres
Melbury	7.5 litres	15 litres	20 litres
Woodbury	12.5 litres	25 litres	35 litres

3. Sealing The Doors And Windows

Start by purchasing 2 tubes of generic clear silicone sealant and an application gun. Only apply sealant after treating the cabin.
Warning: Do not use acid-based sealants on the door and window units as these will damage the seals. Check label guidelines before using.

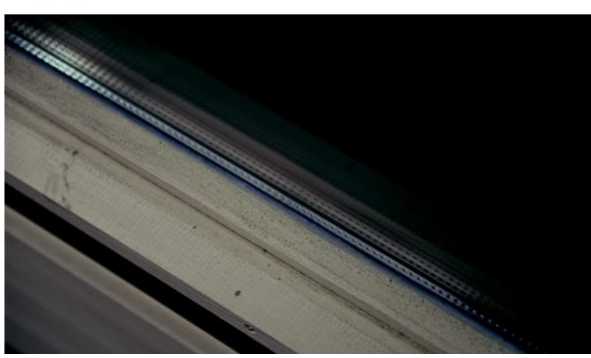
Seal around the outer perimeter of the frame where it meets the logs of the cabin. Always ensure the bead of silicone makes contact with the frame and cabin logs to provide a good seal.

Apply the same technique to the inner frame.

Ensure a bead of silicone is applied around the entire perimeter of the inner frame making contact with both edges of the frame to provide a seal.

Most importantly of all apply a bead of silicone around the perimeter of the frame where it meets the glass.

When applying the silicone try to maintain an even pressure on the applicator and use a smooth slow movement as you move the nozzle across the frame.

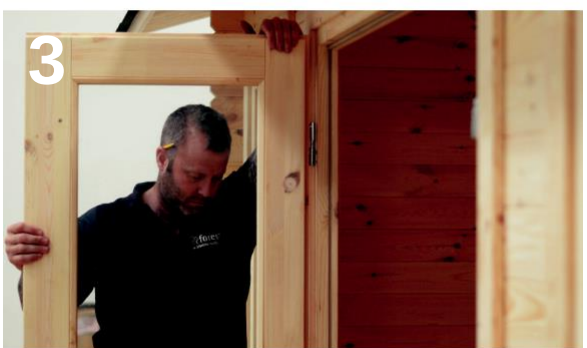


This is what the silicone bead should look like after application.

4. Adjusting The Doors

Start by lifting the door off the hinge.

This will allow access to the adjusting bolt, located in the female part of the hinge attached to the door.



Carefully lift the door back onto the door frame hinge and check the adjustment. If further adjustment is required, lift the door back off the hinges and repeat the process as required.

Using an Allen Key, turn the adjustment bolt anti-clockwise to push the door closer to the adjacent door, or turn it clockwise to pull the door back towards the door frame. Repeat with the bottom hinge as necessary.

When adjusting the doors, line the internal locking bolts up with the bolt holes located in the door frame. This will act as a guide on how far each door should be adjusted. In cases of extreme movement, the bolt holes may have to be relocated by drilling a new receiver hole, unscrewing the metal bolt hole cap, and re-screwing it over the newly drilled hole.