

Main Build Guide

Watch this video first: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBiydEM3V1E>

Note: It is a good idea to have a tarpaulin(s) to cover the main cabin package on delivery in case there are any knicks in the plastic. It is also useful to have during the build to protect components such as apexes and purlins from the sun or rain.

Sort the parts as described in the plan close to your base and stacked on top of each other in the various sizes that make up the cabin. Keep them dry & flat !

Steps

1. Place the starter logs onto your base. There will be two half logs and two full logs opposite each other. Then put the foundation beams next to them (see further down the page for extended details on foundation beams). Measure, cut and slide them underneath the first logs. The beams will go around the perimeter of the cabin. If necessary use the heavy rubber mallet to knock the logs into position and carry on using this throughout the build.

Please Note: The HALF starter log is a log cut directly in half and therefore has a flat bottom. The FULL starter log is an ordinary log and not any different to a standard log

If you do not have a rubber mallet, and instead are using a traditional steel lump hammer, make sure you do not hit the logs directly and use sacrificial timber to protect the tongues. A log can be hit anywhere, not just in the corners.

2. Ensure the log cabin is square and level by eye. You can then fix the first half log to the foundation beams. At about level five FULLY square your cabin (Advice is at the bottom of the page on how to do this)

3. As you build the cabin periodically check the base layer is still square. Ensure you tamp down the logs well as you go. Stop every few layers and check all are going down. Any slight warps or twists can easily be manipulated into position using clamps and your mallet. At around layer five properly square your cabin.

4. Build the walls layer by layer. Be careful where you place the windows and keep following the plan. In most cases if you wish it is possible to place the windows a log higher or lower, please check your plans to see if this is possible.

5. When you are between 3 – 7 logs high, slide the door frame into place. Depending on your cabin the frame and doors maybe in separate packages. If necessary screw the door frame together in the case of double doors.

It is a good idea to also glue the four frame parts once you have identified their positioning. Single doors will generally come ready made. With some models of log cabins it is possible to adjust the hinges to ensure the door fits perfectly. With most of the log cabins, if you want to you can install doors and windows after the building install by removing the fascias from one side. This is useful when you want to protect doors and windows from ladder movements.

6. When all the wall logs have been assembled you can place the gables and then nail the roof boards in place. Follow your plans some cabins will feature a bevelled top wall log. Following the gables fit the roof rafters (purlins). A good fitter will always screw the purlins into position for extra security and strength. For apexes we will often screw these together at the ends to aid installation and to stop them moving when the purlins are fitted. This also helps in lateral strength and is only screwed to depths of about 20mm to allow for movement.

The roof is finished with tongue and grooved roof boards, when fixing please allow +/-2mm for expansion between each board. The last roof board will need to be trimmed. Start assembly of the boards from the front of your log cabin. As you are laying the boards keep checking that the edge of the boards are running parallel. Also check the roof boards are lined up in the centre of a rafter or purlin.

Expect to plane the top wall logs / apexes in together for a perfect fit. It is often impossible to finish 100% flush due to variations in your building technique and the timber moisture content. Ensure that all the logs are tamped down as well as possible in the walls during the build and that no swarf is between the logs preventing them from coming down. Ensure your base is 100% level. If it is not this will become very evident at the top logs being uneven.

All roof boards are fixed using two nails side by side in the top log and where they cross all rafters.