

# GREEN BY NATURE

## TEN REASONS WHY LOG HOMES ARE GREAT

### 1. THERMAL MASS

The thermal qualities of solid wood walls have been known for centuries. First, log homes are solid wood from top to bottom, essentially eliminating 'thermal bridging', where a significant amount of heat loss occurs through the exterior walls. The cellular structure of wood acts as a natural insulator. Second, log walls absorb and retain heat. When its cold outdoors, stored heat is radiated back into the room. In hot weather, wood stores radiant heat and keeps indoor temperature down thereby reducing cooling costs. In both ways, log walls contribute significantly to the energy efficiency of a home.

### 2. OCCUPANT HEALTH

Today's world is full of toxins and pollutants and modern building products contribute to the problem. In fact, drywall can leach toxins and poisonous gases as well as contribute to indoor mold/mildew problems. A solid log wall is a natural product that requires no glue and harmful chemicals. Log walls also absorb excess indoor humidity. Now that is something you can breathe easy about!

### 3. NEGATIVE CARBON FOOTPRINT

**Think wood!** Log homes have the lowest carbon footprint in the building industry. Solid log walls are a living organism sequester (store) carbon for their lifetime! The production and transport of traditional building materials create significant greenhouse gases. The sustainable harvesting of trees for log homes often involves only one trip from the forest to the log builder's yard and another to the home site. Through replanting, young trees continue to absorb greenhouse gases. From the perspective of toxic emissions, log homes have a significant negative carbon footprint in some cases, qualifying owners for a significant carbon credit.

### 4. CRAFTSMANSHIP

Once an almost forgotten skill, there are still crafters who can build these magnificent homes, homes that can withstand the test of time. They treat every home as if it were their own. After all, it is their name, their heritage, their passion. When you meet a log builder, one thing is clear: they care passionately about their work and are proud their skills. New owners get to share in and benefit from it on an ongoing basis.

### 5. A HOME FOR THE GENERATIONS

Log homes become legacy homes. Climate experts agree that using renewable resources is the best way to protect the environment. Look at a conventional home with its drywall, fibrous insulation and vinyl. It is typically not built for the long haul. In contrast, consider a log home built from sustainably harvested trees. It's amazing to realize that a 150-year-old tree can be used to build a home that might last a millennium. There are many, many examples of solid wood buildings that have lasted for centuries. Think about how much greener the earth would be if more people chose to build a log home.

## 6. DESIGN FRIENDLINESS

In the past, log homes were thought of as dark, boxy cabins, something pioneers might have built for expediency. They are not something a modern consumer would consider having. Today's log homes, however, come in many different styles and sizes. They can be light, bright, open and contemporary. On the other hand, they can be quaint, simple, traditional and charming. Today's log home can still have the same features as a conventionally built home. It is simply a matter of design, taste and attention to detail. At the end of the day, a log home will have warmth, comfort and character.

## 7. PEACE AND SERENITY

People love their log homes! And, researchers are showing that human beings thrive in the natural environment. There is something to be said about living in a home constructed from a living thing. The mass, the natural contours, the feeling of protection, it all comes together in a log home. People often can't stop themselves from touching it. The natural color, the movement of the warm tones, the grain of the wood and the imperfections make the log home a comfortably pleasing home.

## 8. ACOUSTICS

Log homes are quiet. As well as absorbing some frequencies, the shape of logs helps distribute sound waves more evenly, reducing echo and keeping the sound bright and clean. Combined with well-placed floor and wall coverings, the highest frequencies are modulated. Compared to gypsum board walls, a log home can sound like a concert hall. Grab a glass, sit back and enjoy yourself. Music never sounds better than in a log home.

## 9. QUICK INSTALLATION

Because log homes are pre-built at the log company's site, then disassembled and transported, most are reassembled on their foundation in a very short time, as little as just a few days for simple handcrafted home. With the walls and roof support structure complete, gone are the successive steps of insulating frame walls and applying finish materials both inside and out. Log walls are pre-drilled for electrical wiring and cut out for electrical boxes. A log home can be enclosed and weathertight in a fraction of the time it takes to enclose a conventional building.

## 10. LOG HOMES CAN BE BUILT AT A DISTANCE

Many log home companies deliver their structures far and wide. By pre-building, the log shell in their facility, they know everything is going to fit perfectly when it is assembled. Whether you live in North America or the Middle East, a log home can be pre-built, shipped and assembled on your property. The environmental impact of a log home will be lower than that of a conventional home constructed of multiple building materials.

## 11. A STRUCTURE BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE RAVAGES OF MOTHER NATURE

As an additional benefit, log homes hold up well in severe weather events, earthquakes and even wildfires. Due to the weight of the logs and the nature of the interlocking corners, they stand up to fierce winds. Because of their inherent flexibility, log homes withstand earthquakes

very well. Because intact logs char and smother a fire, they are much rarely burn down. Many news stories recount the tales of log homes that withstood severe natural events and are still standing.