

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Energy Savers

Controlling Moisture in Log Homes

Since trees absorb large amounts of water as they grow, the tree cells are also able to absorb water very readily after the wood has dried. For this reason, a log home is very hydroscopic—it can absorb water quickly. This promotes wood rot and insect infestation.

It is strongly recommended that you protect the logs from any contact with any water or moisture. One moisture control method is to use only waterproofed and insecticide-treated logs. Reapply these treatments every few years for the life of the house.

Generous [roof overhangs](#), properly sized gutters and downspouts, and drainage plains around the house are also critical for moisture control.

See our section on [moisture control](#) for more information.

Learn More

Product Information

- [Wood Finishes and Preservatives](#)
Log Homes Council

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- [Log Homes and Termites](#)

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