

# Astwood Log Cabin Building Instructions

## Step 1 – Bearers

Lay the tanalised bearers on your base as shown on the Bearer Plan which you will have received.

The 44mm sections should be top and bottom and the 70mm sections should be on the sides so the log cabin sits well off the base.

At the front and back of the building there will be two bearers together. This is so the wall logs can sit on one and the floor boards can be fixed into the other.

If your log cabin has a veranda or partition, there will be three bearers together.

At this point the bearers do not have to be spaced perfectly. You will find they get kicked around as you build the cabin walls. You can straighten them up later.

### **Tips:**

- We recommend putting a damp proof course on top of the bearers to provide extra protection for the log cabin against moisture.

## Step 2 - 1st Logs

Lay the half logs on the front and back bearers.

The 100mm ends of the logs should be overhanging the bearer at each end.

Screw the half logs onto the bearers so they don't fall off.

Next lay the first of the full logs along the sides.

You should use the knocking block and a mallet to knock the logs into place.

### **Tips:**

- Measure the distance between the half logs at the front to make sure that you have positioned the logs correctly on the bearers and that there is enough room for the door.
- Never hit the wood directly with the mallet, always use a knocking block.

### **Tools needed:**

- Mallet
- Knocking block
- Electric drill/screwdriver
- Tape measure

## **Step 3 - Start Building Up The Walls**

You can now start to build up the walls of your log cabin using the numbered plan.

### **Tips:**

- When you get a few logs up check the diagonals on your log cabin are equal.
- Adjust the position of the cabin if required.

### **Tools needed:**

- Mallet
- Knocking block
- Tape Measure
- Ladders

## **Step 4 – Overhang Logs**

Depending on the log cabin design there may be some overhang logs which need to be fitted in the correct order.

The top logs will not have tongues and are angled left and right to allow the roof boards to sit flush on top of them. Make sure you get them the correct way around.

### **Tips:**

- Mind your head on the lower overhang logs when moving around the log cabin.

### **Tools needed:**

- Mallet
- Knocking block
- Ladders

## **Step 5 - Gables**

The gables for standard sized apex log cabins are generally supplied as one piece. On pent log cabins and larger/more complex log cabin you may have to take the gable section apart to fit one log at a time.

Fit the gables on top of the wall logs as shown on the plan.

It is a good idea to screw the gables down at the corners using long screws to keep them in place.

## **Tips:**

- The gables will be heavy.
- Make sure you have someone holding your ladder when you are using it.

## **Tools needed:**

- Mallet
- Knocking block
- Ladders
- Electric drill/screwdriver

## **Step 6 - Rafters**

Place the rafters into the slots in the gables.

Make sure that the one that is angled to a point goes centrally at the top so that the roof boards sit flush against all the rafters.

## **Tips:**

- You can screw the rafters to the gable with long screws.

## **Step 7 - Windows**

You will need 2 people for this.

You will need to remove the back framing of the window by unscrewing it.

From the outside of the log cabin push the window in the space left for it in the wall logs.

A second person will then need to hold the window in position from the outside while you go into the cabin.

From here you need to re-attach the back framing of the window.

Make sure the back frame is only screwed onto the window - do not screw it on to the wall logs as this will prevent the wall logs from moving up and down naturally.

## **Tools needed:**

- Electric drill/screwdriver

## **Step 8 - Roof**

Fit the roof boards onto the rafters.

Start at the front and work to the back.

Line the first board up so it is in line with the front of all the rafters and then secure it into place with nails or screws.

Continue to lay more roof boards, tapping them lightly together so there are no gaps between the tongue and groove.

Make sure you fix each board down to each of the rafters and the top wall log.

When you get to the last roofboard at the back you may need to cut a small bit off to make it fit flush with the rafters.

### **Tips:**

- Do not stand up on the roof.
- Do not fit the roof boards together too tightly as the timber needs room to expand and contract.
- Make sure you have someone to hold your ladder when you are using it.

### **Tools needed:**

- Hammer
- Saw
- Ladders
- Electric screwdriver

## **Step 9 - Roof Side Boards**

Once the roof is fixed down on both sides you will need to fit the roof edge reinforcement and the roof side boards.

They may have been pre-fixed together for you in a T shape, if so screw them to the underside of the roof from above using small screws.

If they are not already made up fix the roof edge reinforcement to the underside of the roof boards from above using small screws. Next screw the roof side boards onto the roof edge reinforcement.

### **Tips:**

- If you are using roofing felt (not supplied) then you should lay it before attaching the roof side boards.

### **Tools needed:**

- Electric screwdriver

## **Step 10 - Roof Shingles**

If you have purchased shingles for the roof they need to be fitted next.

There are separate instructions for this.

## **Step 11 – Facias**

Once the shingles are completed you can fit the facias and felt fillets.

These may be pre-made for you in an L shape piece. If not, then screw them together to make the L shape.

Attach the piece you have just made from the front through the fascia boards and into the rafters.

Fix the diamond to the front and back to hide the join in the facias.

### **Tools needed:**

- Electric screwdriver

## **Step 12 - Doors**

Fit the door frame first.

Unscrew the back trim of the door frame and slot the frame into place. The hinges should be on the outside.

Go inside the log cabin and re-fit the back trim to hold the frame in position.

Make sure you only screw the trim to the frame, do not screw anything to the wall logs.

You might need a second person to help you with this.

You can now hang the doors and adjust them as required.

On a double door you will need to drill a hole at the top and bottom of the frame for the bolts.

### **Tips:**

- Do not attach the door frame to the walls of the cabin as this will affect its ability to settle and may cause gaps.
- Once everything is in place check to see if doors and windows are working correctly slight adjustments can be made by altering the frame position and the door hinges can be altered by rotating them.

### **Tools needed:**

- Electric drill/screwdriver

## **Step 13 - Floor**

Lay the first floor board against the inside wall leaving a small gap so there is room for expansion.

Fix the floor board down to each bearer with nails or screws.

Take another board and lightly tap it into place, then fix down. Continue until you have covered the floor.

You may need to cut the last floor board to fit it in. Again, make sure you leave enough space at the edge for the wood to expand.

Next fix the skirting around the edges to cover up the gaps.

You may need to cut the skirting to the correct length and cut a 45 degree angle at the ends so that it fits together nicely.

### **Tips:**

- Do not knock the floorboards together too tightly because they need space to expand and contract.

### **Tools needed:**

- Hammer
- Electric drill/screwdriver
- Saw

## **Step 14 – Weather Bars**

Once the floor is finished you can fit the weather bars externally on all 4 corners.

Drill a hole at the top and bottom of the wall logs using the weather bar as a guide. Push bolts through both the weather bars and the holes and then fit washers and nuts to secure them in place.

### **Tips:**

- Do not secure the nuts on the weather bars too tight. The wall logs need to be able to expand and contract in the different temperatures/humidities.
- Once the cabin has had time to settle you can re-adjust the weather bars if necessary.

### **Tools needed:**

- Hammer
- Electric drill/screwdriver
- Saw