

Technical Tip

Chink Paint Versus Chinking

A number of log home manufacturers offer squared log homes with cosmetic chink joints. Although some owners of these style homes ignore these cosmetic joints and just stain over them, others like the look of a chink style home which may be the reason that they bought the home in the first place. The question is when should you use Perma-Chink in these cosmetic joints versus using Chink Paint?

For those cosmetic joints that are less than 3/8 inches deep the answer is fairly easy. Unless the log home manufacturer specifies the use of Perma-Chink, Chink Paint is less expensive and much easier to apply, especially if you are planning to do it yourself. Since there is no room for backing material we have seen several instances when a thin layer of Perma-Chink was applied directly over bare wood and blisters formed in the chinking. Even if the bare wood is covered with masking tape it may still not be a good idea to use Perma-Chink. If the Perma-Chink only has a 1/4" lip of wood to hold onto on the upper and lower edges there may not be enough surface area for good adhesion. If Perma-Chink is applied and masking tape is used as a backer in shallow chink joints it's especially important to make sure that the tape does not cover any edges. If it does there will be virtually no adhesion of the Perma-Chink at that point.



Blisters in thin layer of chinking applied over bare wood

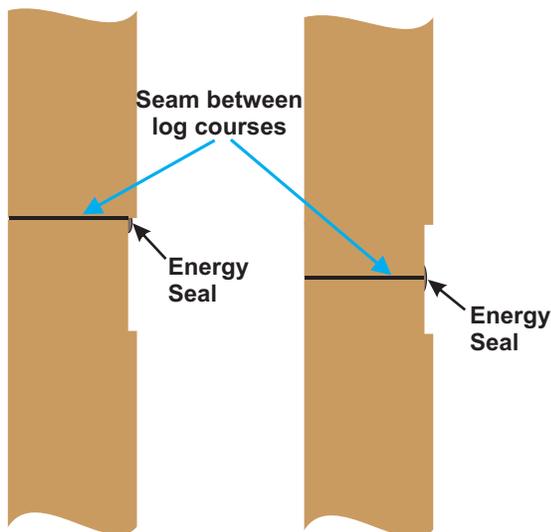


Wall with cosmetic chink joints

Whenever Chink Paint is used and a seam is present within the cosmetic joint the seam may be first sealed with Energy Seal and once the Energy Seal is dry Chink Paint can be applied over it. Do not use masking tape under Chink Paint. It will prevent the Chink Paint from adhering to the wood and may eventually peel off.

For cosmetic chink joints that are 3/8 inches deep or deeper Perma-Chink may be used but you should be aware that Chink Paint is a less expensive alternative that's much easier to apply. If the joint is deep enough to accommodate both backing material and the proper thickness of Perma-Chink it's best to actually chink it to prevent water from accumulating on top of the bottom lip.

Cosmetic Chink Joints on Squared Logs



If Chinking a Shallow Chink Joint

