

# COUNTRY LIVING



D I G E S T

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## 1. BENEFITS OF LOG HOMES

Today's log homes can be just as big and luxurious as traditional stick-built homes, and they've got something your neighbor's home doesn't: logs. What kid didn't dream of having a log home (or maybe a log tree fort) out in the woods somewhere? Well, some adults share that dream.



Whether you like the rustic look or just want to live in a house built from natural materials, a log home may be appealing to you. But are they a good investment? Are they a smart choice?

The short answer is yes. In fact, log homes have some benefits stick-built homes lack. Let's take a look.

1. They generally are made to a higher standard with superior craftsmanship and custom touches. Because of this, log homes regularly appraise higher than comparably sized conventional homes. Basically this means that, square foot for square foot, they have a higher resale value.
2. Log homes are sturdy, stand up well to the elements, and generally speaking last a long time. There are many stories of these houses surviving the worst Mother Nature has thrown at them, including the big 2005 hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. This shouldn't be surprising. Unlike walls in traditional homes, which are just frames covered with insulation and drywall, log homes are solid wood. There are still-standing, still-occupied log homes in Europe dating back more than 800 years.
3. The notion that log homes are warm and cozy isn't just fanciful thinking. Compared to a cold piece of drywall, wood is warm to the touch. Logs also have something called thermal mass going for them; all that dense, solid wood is energy efficient, keeping temperatures inside the home comfortable year around.
4. If your log home is built and sealed properly, it will be very energy efficient. This means you spend less money on heating and cooling throughout the year. Many log home manufacturers create kits designed to be 15-20% more efficient than a conventional home.
5. Log homes are usually more quiet than stick-built homes. Remember that thermal mass we talked about? Well, aside from being energy efficient, it's sound efficient. Those

dense logs have sound-deadening effects. That means you can block out everything from outside noises to your kid's basement drum solos. No need for ear plugs, thank you.

6. One last benefit, is that it's easy to maintain log homes and keep them free of mold, mildew, and insect infestations. In traditional homes, there are sealed wall cavities where everything from mold, termites, and rats can get in and thrive. Log homes don't have those dank hollows. To inspect for problems, all you have to do is take a walk around your home and check out the condition of the logs. This makes it easy to catch problems earlier and get them taken care of before they become costly situations.

Generally speaking, the pros far outweigh the cons when it comes to choosing a log home. Whether it's for your primary residence, a vacation rental, or a place to retire down the road, a log home can keep you and your family warm and comfortable for years to come.

## 2. ENJOYING THE LOG HOME LIFESTYLE

**S**o you've taken the plunge and bought your dream log home. Congratulations! Whether it was purchased as your main home or as a vacation home, there are many reasons why the log home lifestyle is different from living in a traditional home. Here are some tips to help you enjoy the true log home lifestyle.

### Proper Decor

First and foremost, your decor should be a good match to the rugged, rustic beauty of the log interior and exterior walls. The logs should be the backdrop to decor that reflects your own



personal style without clashing with the primitive uniqueness of the logs. Whether you choose furniture made from logs and twigs, traditional wood antiques, ranch style decor, an old western motif or just a comfy cabin style with a modern edge, there are many styles that will go well with a log home interior. If practicality, usability and cost is your main goal, then even simple wood furniture from places like IKEA would be a good fit. However, if you really want to stay true to the tradition of log home interiors, then consider spending more on some antiques and handcrafted wood furniture. Extremely modern furniture with straight edges and bright colors may not match well with your log home's interior but you can always mix and match to find that perfect eclectic feel that best reflects your personality. A type of furniture that would go perfect in any log home is log furniture. You'll find there are talented craftsmen who create beautiful chairs, beds, tables and benches completely from logs.

### Nature

One of the reasons people buy a log home is to be closer to nature. Whether they buy a log cabin deep in the woods as a vacation getaway or ski lodge, or whether they choose a larger log home in a forested but sparsely populated area, you can bet the setting will more than likely be somewhere where nature and wildlife is bountiful. You can better enjoy nature by having a patio, deck or balcony where you can have meals outside. Also, don't obstruct the view from your windows with furniture, lamps or curtains that can't be opened completely. You want to be able to see the beauty outside your windows during every season. You may also want to bring nature into your home to help decorate it. You can make gorgeous decorations for holidays and year round by using pinecones, fallen leaves, twigs and branches. Pinecones can even make a beautiful

centerpiece for your hall table or dinner table. You can also decorate your art and picture frames with found twigs and branches.

## **Warmth**

I'm not just talking about heat here, it's obvious you should keep your log home at a warm yet comfortable temperature. I'm talking about adding a warm and cozy feeling to your log home so you and your visitors will feel comfortable and at ease. Increase the warmth of your log home by having lots of throw blankets available, hang them over your couch or sofa. Add lots of pillows. Have candles around to light when the mood strikes or when guests visit. Lighting also plays a huge part in the sense of warmth of your home. You'll find many types of lighting that works well with the interior of your log home. If you're going for the rustic look, a chandelier made from a wagon wheel or antlers would work great. For a slightly more modern look, consider metal lighting such as lamps with punched tin lampshades or lighting fixtures made of wrought iron. Lighting placement is also important, but even more important for a log home since a log home's interior tends to be darker than a traditional home's interior. Typically, you'll want to have a couple lamps in each room, but you may also want either a hanging lamp to give light to the whole room or a third lamp. Test your lighting schemes to see what works best for your particular interior environment as some log home interiors may have a lighter finish or even a finished and painted interior. Whatever lighting you choose, it should enhance the nighttime ambience of your home while remaining practical.

## **Peace**

If your log home is a true vacation getaway home, then you may not want to have distracting things like a huge TV, video game consoles, massive stereos and computers. Instead, have things available that will truly enhance the peace and calmness in your home like books, puzzles and board games. Also, have plenty of tea, coffee and/or hot cocoa handy. Just sitting by the fire drinking hot cocoa and reading a book, or sitting by a window with some herbal tea watching the snow fall, these are some of the true joys of log home living.



### 3. USING WIND ENERGY TO MAKE OFF GRID POWER

**W**orking to create wind energy for your home does not have to take years to accomplish, nor do you have to have thousands of dollars to invest in your home energy system to offset the costs of your energy bill each month. What you do need is the right information to help you make an off grid power system that does not cost a fortune, and that is easy to build yourself.



#### **Finding Information**

When you want to create wind energy for your home, the best thing that you can do is take the time to do some research so that you can find an affordable option that would not leave you paying an additional bill each month. For most people, a good eBook or an internet search can give you the entire information that you need to have an off grid power source to lower your energy costs.

Online information is a good option because it can be free or very low cost. If you cannot find what you need using a simple online search, then you may want to try to find a book or an eBook that has the information that you need to create wind energy for your home.

#### **Supplies and Costs**

The most important thing that you will need to create wind energy to make off grid power is a windmill. If you have experience building, and have some supplies lying around your home, then you are looking at a very low cost for your windmill. For most people, the average cost for one windmill is well under two hundred dollars.

## 4. POPULAR WOODWORKING TIPS



**T**hese tips, if followed, can greatly enhance the quality of the finished woodwork and can benefit novices and experts alike.

\*We have listed down a few popular woodworking tips:

### **Have a Woodworking Project Plan**

Have a set of blueprints for your project. Making a project plan enhances the efficiency and increases the work speed. A plan gives a set direction to the project and is helpful in avoiding errors and frustration. In absence of definite design plans, errors and mistakes occur which causes a huge setback to the project. A project plan eliminates frustration and procrastination and gives a sense of purpose to the project.

A definite plan causes the work flow to move in a definite direction and saves time. It is important to visualize the outcome of the project, vis-à-vis its finished look, its positioning after completion. This helps in avoiding errors during the measuring and the construction phase and in creating a perfectly finished product.

All said and done, planning a project in advance helps a smooth process flow of a woodworking project. It is not important to sort design plans into a category in the woodworking tips list, because having a design plan is as essential as the actual execution of the project.



## **Befriend Your Woodworking Tools**

Somebody once said that "A workman is as good as his tools". It is important to have an in depth knowledge of the woodworking tools before embarking on the woodworking project. Different tools serve different purpose and are used in different areas; hence it is imperative to know your tools well.

For instance, it is quite tough to cut wood pieces into curves and arcs with the help of a crosscut saw. On the other hand, the jigsaw is an ideal tool to cut curves and will aid in the systematic cutting of the wood pieces. Different tools in woodworking have different areas of specialization and application. This knowing the application and the usage of all popular woodworking tools is quite important and is an important ingredient in woodworking tips.

## **Know the Nature of Your Wood Pieces**

Another popular woodworking tip is to understand the nature of the wood that the woodworker is working with. Wood wears as the time passes by, due to the exposure to the elements. This understanding helps the woodwork to last long. It is important to know the nature of the wood, the kind of force that can be applied to it. This helps in deciding the cut that should be inflected upon the wood and deciding the set up of the joints. This knowledge helps the woodworker to execute the woodwork with finesse and leads to an outstanding outcome.

To summarize, the three age old fine woodworking tips are having a project plan, understanding your work tools and detailed knowledge of the wood you are working with. These tips can help in the timely completion of the project, avoid glitches and also enhance the outcome of the project.

## 5. URBAN HOMESTEADING TODAY



**U**rban homesteading today is a new twist on an old theme. The concept of homesteading is not new, but in recent times, with the state of the economy, the interest in homesteading is getting new life, and many of the people who are finding themselves interested, live in metropolitan areas.

Homesteading, therefore urban homesteading is about a self sufficient life style. Growing and raising much of your own food and being less dependent on outside systems are a big part of urban homesteading today. People are turning their backyards into farms, not only growing food, but keeping chickens, goats and rabbits.

Creating a perm culture garden that includes raised bed gardening is a very good plan. Developing long term food storage methods to keep and use your harvest during winter months is a big part of urban homesteading today.

Urban dwellers may be limited in their ability to produce their own water and handle their own septic, but they can produce some or all of their own power. They can break even on their electricity bills, or even potentially make an income by sending electricity back to the electric company. There are many things people can do within the city limits to lead a more self sufficient life.

If you stop and think about it, the concept of homesteading in urban and suburban areas makes a lot of sense. If a lot of people began to do this, there would be less need to import fruits and vegetables from outside of the country. And the food would be better because a vine ripened tomato is always better than one picked green and shipped overseas and it ripens on the way. Think about it.

## 6. HOW TO LEARN HOUSEHOLD DIY REPAIR SKILLS

**A**re you interested in learning how to do Do-It-Yourself repair tasks around your home, but are uncertain where to start? Not only will DIY projects save you a ton of money, but you'll pick up a new hobby. Here are some tips to learn at the fastest rate possible:



### **1. Take a class.**

You can learn various DIY skills at places such as community centers, and hardware or home improvement stores. The best part is that the classes are usually free! OK, the ones at stores are somewhat of a shameless plug to advertise certain tools. But that's not really a problem since you'll likely need those tools to do your DIY projects anyway, right?

### **2. Buy books.**

You can find several DIY books for sale, and you don't have to spend a fortune for them! Look for books at "sale" displays in bookstores, used bookstores, thrift stores, and yard sales. The best books are those with large pictures, and instructions that are clear and concise. Keep in mind that these books are an investment that you'll be able to use for several years.

### **3. Watch home-improvement shows.**

You can find several helpful shows on public TV and cable TV, which have a focus on DIY projects. These shows typically air once a week, and often on Saturdays. You'll learn a ton of information about how to do DIY projects, from experts in various fields.

### **4. Learn by doing.**

While there's something to be said for learning the skills needed to do DIY projects around the house, there's no substitute for experience! After learning the basic DIY skills, start doing some small projects around your home. You'll learn a lot by doing these projects, including through the mistakes that you make. Then do as many projects as you can, gradually increasing your skill level until you're ready to tackle the huge projects.



## **5. Master the tools and safety equipment.**

Learning how to use both of these types of items is crucial to doing your DIY projects safely and effectively. Using a tool improperly or failing to use safety equipment could turn your DIY project into a nightmare.

## **6. Talk to other DIY people.**

Talk with friends and relatives who already do their own DIY projects around their homes. You'll get some fantastic insights from them, and will be able to avoid many of the mistakes that they made through trial and error. Remember that showing is better than telling. The best way to gain knowledge from DIY-ers is to give them a hand while they do a DIY project in their home. Even if you end up fetching the materials and equipment that the person needs, you'll learn at a lightning-fast pace by using this method. And if you have any questions-ask! The only "stupid" question is the one you don't ask.

If you want to learn how to do DIY projects, these tips will help to make them as easy as 1-2-3. By learning the proficiencies from a variety of sources, you'll have the most success in building your DIY skills.

## 7. DIY SOLAR PANEL PROGRAM

Today, many people prefer to do things on their own based on a simple handbook or better known as a "do-it-yourself" guide. Making a DIY solar panel is no excuse. Anyone can simply order a panel by calling a supplier or by browsing the internet and it will be delivered carefully packaged and with a DIY guide.



Most of the DIY solar panels can directly be setup on the roof. A wooden support or frame can also be created in order to install the panel, making it more exposed to the sun and thus generate more electricity.

The list of the benefits of having a solar can go so long enough to convince anyone to go green and try it. Anyone displaying a solar panel outside his home belongs to the green advocacy - a call towards utilizing renewable energy in place of the traditional sources in order to abate the destructive effects of these sources to the environment and the rapid depletion of traditional energy sources in the world. Aside from the savings one can get from using solar energy, using DI panels can also be great family bonding time.

After finding the right manufacturer of DIY panels online, or after calling a manufacturer and placing an order, one has to make sure that the tools found in his home is sufficient to make a hassle-free installation of the panel. Among these tools are screwdrivers, soldering iron and solder, wire cutters and strippers, drill and silicone caulk. Wood glue and saw will also be needed is a wooden frame is desired in installing the solar.

- A standard 3x6" solar cell can generate 0.5 volts and approximately 3.5 amperes of current. Around 36 of these cells can create a DIY solar panel that is capable of 18 volts output when exposed to direct sunlight. Online sellers of DIY solar panels offer pre-tabbed cells which are a little more expensive but would make wiring easier.

In installing a panel, a piece of plywood can suffice to serve as the back cover of the wooden frame. A cheap fibreboard is enough to act as the substrate and a clear glass can efficiently cover the box.

Wiring the cells could be done easier if the DIY solar panel is pre-tabbed because there will be no need to solder the cells before wiring. A diode could help in making sure that no current will flow out of the batteries where electricity generated by the panel is stored.

There are a lot of guides available in the web for DIY panels. DIY videos are most popular but those that comes with the DIY package would prove to be more efficient, only explained better by those that are readily available online.



## 8. TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE A TINY HOME



**E**nergy costs today are running rampant. Taxes have literally gone through the roof. People are finally beginning to say enough is enough. So how do we stop this runaway train that housing has turned into? To find the answer to this pressing question we must first look at what led our society down this devastating path in the first place. This requires looking back into how homes have been defined through the ages.

Throughout time, homes can be divided into two categories. The first is that of everyman, and the second is that of the gentry, or upper class. For a long time the homes of everyman were built to meagre standards. They contained just enough space for the everyday needs of the family. There was a kitchen area which many times was combined with a dining space. There was typically a small bit of extra space which could be used for sitting and passing the time reading, doing chores, or craftwork of some sort.

The "bedrooms" were typically no more than a sleeping bunk or loft set off of this main area. In some cases, the parents' bunk would be downstairs and separated from the common area by a simple curtain. The children would then sleep upstairs in the loft. Everyman didn't own the amount of clothing that we worry with today. This means that there usually was no need for closets to store them in. A simple chest of drawers could hold what was needed.

Through the ages however the upper class has had a different notion of what a home should be. These homes have included all sorts of elaborate rooms such as music rooms, parlors, formal dining rooms, multiple guest rooms, and many more. Nowadays, when one looks at homes of the middle and even lower class families in America, it is easy to see the influence that the homes of the gentry have played. It has become common place for many homes to now have a great deal of excess space.

Take for example a family of four; two children and two parents. The parents spend a great deal of time in the living room which could be as big as twenty five by twenty feet or more. The kids might spend most of their time in their bedrooms. The dining room largely goes unused, as does the kitchen which is also huge. Heating, cooling, and even lighting this home is quite expensive. The property taxes are also high as well due to square footage. So, why would this family choose to pay to live in such a costly home?

This is the question that many people are now starting to ask. By running a search on the Internet for "tiny homes" one can easily see the grassroots movement that is now picking up steam here in the US and abroad. Some single individuals have found it comfortable, and affordable, to live in a home of less than 200 square feet. Just imagine a home for one that costs under \$5,000 USD. Does this sound too good to be true? Believe it or not there are many of these tiny houses starting to pop up all across the world. This begs the question; why should we choose to live in such small houses? There are five excellent reasons why it should be an option that everyone considers in this day and age.

1. Cut Those Spiraling Energy Costs - Average electric, gas, and water bills have been going up exponentially in the past several years. Some say it is due to the finite supply of resources powering many of the utilities. Others feel it is due to the greed of the corporations holding the reigns. No matter what the reason there is no arguing as to the pain in the wallet that these bills represent. Now imagine being able to run your entire house on two simple solar panels. On days with little sun you might have to resort to wind for back up. This is quite possible with a small home. Tiny homes are very easy to heat, cool, light and more without having to give your sweat and blood to the utility companies.

2. Say Goodbye To The Taxman - Property taxes are on the rise as towns, counties, and states look for more income streams. The larger your home the more taxes you will likely pay. Now imagine how little tax you would have to pay for a home that could fit on a space the size of four parking spaces two in front of the other. That's right; your new tiny home could be easily squeezed in wherever you can find an ultra small lot. Some folks even build theirs to fit onto a flatbed trailer for mobility.

3. Scoff In The Face Of Disaster - Just ask people who lose their homes in tornadoes or hurricanes, losing a full sized home in a disaster can be extremely devastating. Not only do you lose your worldly belongings, but you also take an enormous financial hit,

especially if you do not have homeowners insurance that will cover such loss. Now compare a \$10k tiny home with a \$100k full sized home. Any loss is hard, but at least this sort would be much easier to come back from. Imagine as well the ability to hook your home up to a vehicle and move it to safety if need be.

4. Keep Yourself Clutter Free - Have you ever taken a look around a cluttered room and felt your heart race or began to feel a headache coming on? The truth is that in today's homes the extra space simply serves as a catchall. It is somewhere that we can store any number of things that will need to be dusted, cleaned, and just generally cared for. If nothing else, we end up moving the things from spot to spot. Why go through all this trouble? A tiny home would help to reduce the desire for such clutter by simply not offering up as much dead space. Sure, you would have plenty of room for keepsakes. You would not however have to worry about that old tin whatnot getting knocked into other stuff or collecting dust.

5. Reduce Your Carbon Footprint - Perhaps one of the best reasons to choose a tiny house would be the benefit of reducing your overall carbon footprint. This takes place in several ways. First, a tiny home requires an enormously reduced amount of building materials. This in itself is a huge step. Next is the fact that you can easily convert it to use wind and/or solar energy for your electrical needs. By relying on solar powered lights, heating, and cooling, you will do your part in reducing the burden for oil, gas, and other such resources. This is another huge step in helping the planet. Whether you believe in the existence of global warming or not, there is no arguing that man has an effect on his environment. Why not take steps to make this impact less harmful than it could be?

Keep in mind that these five reasons are not the only ones. There are many other reasons to choose a tiny home over a full-sized energy consuming model. There may come a day in which we all will be required to look into the feasibility of tiny home living. Why not get a jump on it now and get the perfect tiny home today?



**T**he time has come when statistics show that the crime of home break-ins are on the rise in rural areas, that means it is time for country living to be made burglar proof with the help of a home security system. Living in the country no longer means it is safe to leave the house unlocked while running to the store. Going on vacation and leaving the house unprotected and dark is asking to come home to find possessions missing and the safe feeling destroyed.

To make a home burglar proof there several things that need to be done, the first is to have a dependable monitored home alarm system. This is a system that will alert the family and the monitoring center, in the event there is a break-in or an attempted break-in. The features that are included in this type of system allow for it monitor for other things besides break-ins, the alarm system is able to monitor the home for smoke, fire and carbon monoxide.

One of the advantages of a monitored home alarm system are the decals that can be placed on the windows and sign that can be placed in the yard, this will alert a burglar scoping out this home that this is not an easy house to break into. Instead it is a house that has protection and the authorities could arrive before they have time to enter the house, take what they want and leave the house.

The main advantage that a homeowner can have over a burglar along with their alarm system is the additional items that can be put in place such as outdoor lighting. Outdoor lighting can keep the area around the home well lit that alone is a deterrent for someone breaking into a residence. A well lit area does not leave them places to hide in the shadows; instead they are in full view for anyone in the house to see, for neighbors to see and vehicles on the road. Outdoor lighting comes with different abilities, there is the type of lighting that is turned on and off by a switch, there is dusk to dawn lighting and there is motion lighting. Choosing the type that's right for the family should not be a problem with the different types of outdoor lights.

Living in the country often means family is away from home for longer periods of time, because errands, shopping, work and school are further away than they would be living in the city. This means there is more time for someone to check the house out and decide if this residence is a good candidate for a break-in. Before leaving the dwelling the security system should always be armed, this will protect the house while the family is not there.

It is up to the homeowner to make the country residence burglar proof, door locks alone are not able to keep this person out of the home. They are experienced in picking locks; looking for unlocked windows and in sneaking around without being seen to get what possessions they can from the home.

## 10. WHAT MAKES A GOOD COOK?

**T**rained chefs are supposed to be good cooks, but I have had lousy meals at famous restaurants. I have also had five-star meals in friends' homes. One friend served pork tenderloin, sourdough bread, Napa cabbage slaw, and chocolate souffle. Her simple meal was a gourmet meal in every sense of the word.



In the dictionary the word cook is defined as "to prepare food by the action of heat." I think there is more to cooking than that. What makes a good cook?

A good cook understands recipes. Before the cook starts to prepare a recipe he or she reads it all the way through. The cook understands abbreviations, cooking terms, and follows the recipe step-by-step. After the cook is familiar with the recipe he or she may change it to suit personal tastes.

A good cook can use equipment. The cook can use a mixer, food processor, blender, immersion blender, grill pan, and other appliances. This cook is also familiar with kitchen tools like a whisk, mellow-baller, and micro plane.

A good cook masters basic techniques. The cook knows how to saute, poach, braise, steam, grill, shallow-fry, stir-fry, and microwave food. In addition, the cook knows how to make a white sauce, thicken sauces with flour and cornstarch, beat egg whites, and tempers eggs.

A good cook relies on fresh ingredients. Seasonal fruits and vegetables are the starting point for meals. The cook buys fresh fish and flavorful cuts of meat.

A good cook sharpens knives. As the old adage says, a dull knife is a dangerous knife. For this reason and cutting ease, a good cook cares for knives properly, keeps them sharp, and stores them safely.

A good cook practices food safety. He or she washes hands thoroughly before touching food and during preparation. Separate cutting boards are used for meat and chicken and washed well after use. Cold food is kept really cold and hot food is refrigerated promptly after a meal.

A good cook plans interesting menus. Some cooks prepare recipes from one culture, while others prepare recipes from many. Each part of the meal fits together like a fascinating puzzle.

A good cook makes simple things well. Only a good cook can make rich coffee, fabulous soup, and fluffy scrambled eggs. Though the cook is able to prepare complex recipes, he or she excels at the simple ones.

A good cook cleans up the kitchen. My mother told me this when I was a teenager and I have never forgotten it. She was an excellent cook and I learned a lot from her. She taught me to take good care of pots, pans, and dishes.

A good cook always adds love. You cannot rush when you are adding love, you must pay attention to what you are doing, and take the time to do it. Whether it is the first ingredient or last, a cook's love is what makes food so delicious.



## 11. HOW TO BUILD A RUSTIC LOG PICNIC TABLE

Weekends are a time where family gather together and bond each other. It would be best if you'll create a rustic log picnic table with benches or simply picking up a readymade one. Before planning to build, you need to gather a list of all the materials that you might need. These are the following:

Materials to use:

- 4 logs, 8 feet by 12 inches in diameter- Planer
- Power Log splitter
- Carpenter's pencil and tape measure
- Chalk line
- Belt sander, either coarse or medium sanding belts
- Deep clamps
- Scrap wood clamp pads
- 4 lengths 2 inch by 4 inch stock lumber
- 3 inch wood screws
- 2 pieces 1 by 4 inch by 8 feet stock lumber
- Rubber mallet
- 6 logs, 3 feet long and 6 inch in diameter
- Carpenter's glue
- Power drill with 1/2 inch bit
- Hacksaw



- A box of fender washers about 1/2 inch diameter hole
- A box of 1/2 inch diameter hex nuts
- A box of carriage bolts, 1/2 inch in diameter and 10 inches long

Now that you already had an idea of the materials to be use. The next step that you have to undergo is how to build it. There are various sources that you can search via internet to give you an idea on how to create and build awesome rustic log table. Instructions might include how to cut the lumber properly with exact sizes and proper measurements may vary, steps on how to prepare the tabletop, the proper way to attach the legs without breaking it in, and the steps for final finishing touches that might include varnishing in order to protect the rustic log picnic table against some elements for outdoor exposure.

Source: DIY Network

Link: [DIY Network](#)

## 12. HOW TO BUILD RUSTIC FURNITURE

Being creative is an innate quality that each one of us possesses. If you're searching for a furniture style that is totally awesome and unique that will really stand out in your home, you might be interested upon considering a rustic wood furniture. Actually, you can buy some in a local furniture store in your area but still it would be best if you try to design it in your own. I guarantee that it's a fun project but isn't super tricky, depending upon the choice of piece you choose.



The first thing that you have to consider is the types and styles. There are a lot of options available for you to choose from. The style doesn't really have to be precise in formula: since a rustic wood furniture is essentially any piece that is purposely designed to look rough and handmade. So it doesn't really mean that it has to be poor in quality, rather it has to have this certain look of a handmade glamour. Branches, whole logs, reclaimed wood furniture, tree limbs, "composite pieces" are among of the popular styles of rustic wood furniture. If you are living near a wooded area, it would be best to roam around and start collecting awesome pieces to be use in your new project. A composite piece is actually fabricated once you take two pieces and unite them together. This is actually a great method to start because the structures are already there.

The starting point of this kind of project is to have an idea on how to build it from scratch. You may start finding an old piece that you don't feel like using anymore and take it apart. Remove it carefully. Do not forget to note down how it was assembled and try to put it back together. You can also remodel an existing piece. Be creative and find a nice solid piece of wood furniture, and dismantle planks, legs, panels, whatever you wanted. It would really be a good practice if you jot down notes of some building techniques and tips before pursuing this project in order for you to have a synchronized idea and plan upon doing it so. Best of luck!

Source: Info Barrel

Link: [Info Barrel](#)

## 13. TURN LOGS AND STUMPS INTO FURNITURE

All parts of a tree have an essential use to most enterprises and manufacturing industries. From the leaves down to the roots, in one way or another, all have varying applicability. Even the leaves of coconut trees can be used as ceilings for “nipa” huts and pavilions. Milled timber and logs are widely used for building houses. Residues extracted from tree roots can be used as oil for cooking and what-not. What Mother Nature produces cannot be underestimated; she feeds out everything that has benefit, breaking all things natural back down to once again become a part of the life cycle.



Along with burning tree logs or stumps for firewood, here is something really interesting you can build. Those stumps sitting in your backyard might be something of purpose you have not thought of just yet! Here are a few practical uses for logs and stumps which will inspire you!

Turn that tree stump into a nice arm chair. You need not be a master of chisel, chainsaw or any cutting instruments! Just an ample knowledge of those tools is enough. And don't forget about protecting your hands and working gloves! Draw an outline on the top surface of the stump. Carve it deep until you feel you have reached the base of where will want to sit. Then remove the inside portion of the stump. It should be wide enough so you won't have problems fitting into it. Smooth out the collar of the stump, adjust the armrest and you have yourself a creative wooden chair!

Large logs can be designed and carved into lawn seats or long benches. Tree stumps can also be useful by crafting them into a lawn tables and flower stands. There are actually a hundred of ways you can turn those logs into something functional and helpful. Before you toss or burn things look if you can find a creative way to make use of some of these things. If you a lot of access to logs and stumps, this could even become a source of revenue if you made and sold the very natural outdoor furniture.

Source: Turn Logs And Stumps Into Furniture With Some Chainsaw Skills

Link: [Turn Logs And Stumps Into Furniture With Some Chainsaw Skills](#)



## 14. HOW TO MAKE LOG FURNITURE

Log furniture is very popular these days. In fact, a lot of people are fond of decorating their houses with log furniture. Well, there is no question about that since log furniture is known to last longer. Making your own log furniture is actually not that hard. It is alright if it is your first time making it. Even so, it is more advantageous if you have woodworking experience of course. How to make log furniture then?



Firstly, you need to make your own design of a log furniture. If it is your first time, make sure that you opt to make a simpler log furniture. Choose those that do not require or only require less joints. It is because making joints may be still hard for you since you still do not have any experience in woodworking. Secondly, you have to choose the right tools in making it. Nevertheless, before choosing, make sure that you already decided what look of log furniture you want; may it be rustic look or hand hewn look. Keep in mind that these two looks will vary in terms of tools that must be used.

Next, you need to choose the materials in making log furniture. Always keep in mind that your finished product will be greatly affected with the materials you use. You can actually include metal pieces, antlers, bent willow branches, and twigs. It will depend on your personal preference. One thing is for sure, these things will beautifully accessorize the log furniture you create. If you are already expert in woodworking, then you can add some carvings on your log furniture.

If you will make rustic log furniture, finishing it is very important. Remember, unfinished wood is very prone to dirt and some other particles that may ruin its beauty. However, this does not mean that it is not a good decoration in the house. After all, unfinished wood is loved by so many people because of its beautiful natural look.

Start making your own log furniture now, and save so much amount of money.

Source: Everything Log Homes

Link: [Everything Log Homes](#)

## 15. MOST EXPENSIVE HOUSES IN THE WORLD



**H**ave you ever dreamed about living in the most expensive house in the world? “Yes!” Well, our dreams are mutual, dear one. As much as I would love to live in a house worth ten million dollars, I only have ten dollars in my pocket. And this is even my allowance for the entire week Oh, right. \*sighs\* Let’s not worry about that now. The ten million dollars will come in later when we will win in a lottery. This time, let’s take a grand tour to the world’s most expensive houses. Let’s go! Oh, wait! For a few moments, let’s feel like we own these houses, OK? \*winks\*

Let’s go to Silicon Valley Chateau first. Brace yourselves, people! This 25, 000 square-foot house is worth 100 million dollars. \*silence\* \*looks at my ten dollars\* \*cries\* OK, Yuri Milner, a Russian entrepreneur and venture capitalist owns this house. He is also the founder of Digital Sky Technology and is an investor in Facebook, Twitter, and Spotify. Oh, yeah! Big time and described as the most expensive single-family home in the United States. The mansion has a huge living room, a game room, library \*eyes sparkle\*, theatre, master sitting room, ‘His’ and ‘Her’ bathrooms, tennis pavilion, and loggia. Are we sure we’re in a house, or in a mall?

Let’s proceed to another home, the Fleur de Lys Mansion. “How much is this house?” Oh, not that much. Just 125 million dollars. \*faints\* This 35,000 square-foot house is only owned by billionaires David and Suzanne Saperstein. This French chateau-inspired house has 12 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms, a ballroom that could occupy over 200 guests, two kitchens, theatre room, a 9-car garage, and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  quarter-mile jogging track. Because

of David's affair to their Swedish nanny, David and Suzanne is now divorced and the mansion is now in the hands of Suzanne.

Oh wow! If I have the 125--- "I'm curious!" About what? "Are the people living in those houses ever get lost? I mean they're too big! With 12 bedrooms and all." \*silence\* Uhm, maybe they got a map or something. OK, if you want to know the most expensive houses in the world, just go to the website below.

Source: how stuff works

Link: [how stuff works](#)



## 16. MOST EXPENSIVE LOG CABINS IN SKI COUNTRY



It is always fun to get away from your usual working life sometimes and go on a vacation to enjoy the money that you have been working hard for. Why not go on a ski trip this time and experience adventure with your family and friends in the snow. But, of course, it is not enough that you will just stay out there in the cold without a cottage or a cabin to rest in. There are many wonderful areas to go to and places to purchase. The ones we have here are for people that have a lot of money. Want to take a glimpse and dream really big! Here are some of the most expensive cabins that we have gathered, and they might just interest you.

1. 1025 N STARWOOD DRIVE- this cabin can be found in Aspen. In case you are not familiar of this place, this is where you could find the most expensive listing in the United States for a log cabin to work with your ski trip. It has 7 rooms and 13 bath areas. Their asking price is worth \$35 million, and that's their final offer. Celebrities and known billionaires were said to hang out in this place. It is so luxurious that this 66-acre property is filled with amenities that you probably have not even heard of. This is what we want to call the cabin of the future.

2. 5000 Royal- this one is located in Utah, specifically in Park City. It is the area's most expensive log cabin because it is worth \$34 million. It is all worth it since it comes with 12 bedrooms, 16 bathrooms and it has a dining room that could house 20 people enough for a huge party. This is what we call living the good life.

Check out more expensive log cabins for your next ski trip on the Curbed Ski's website below.

Source: CURBED SKI

Link: [CURBED SKI](#)



## 17. URBAN TREEHOUSE



A lot of people say that it's hard to find a dream house these days. If you can't afford one just yet, you can always rent one to give you that extra special experience. Take a vacation and treat yourself with your special someone in a house that is close to the dream that you want. Allow us to introduce to you the Urban Tree house. Even if you're not someone who is into living with natural resources, this house is going to capture not only your eyes, but your heart. And if you think living in a tree house is not possible to achieve with comfort, then this tree house will break your ideals.

This vacation house is located in Berlin, Germany. Designed by architect Andreas Wenning of the company Baumraum. The whole idea of this tree house, rental business was made by a grandfather and his grandson who eventually teamed up with a tree house specialist in order for people to experience nature at its finest. You might think it's contradicting that they call it urban, but it is located in a suburban area. The idea for urban people to get in touch with nature is one of their main goals.

It is not just one tree house that is available for rental. They created two of them, and both are near each other. Despite of them being called tree houses, they are not supported by the trees. A wood-clad pedestal supports each of these houses, which is like a huge tree trunk. This was a hard decision made by the architect because it is not something that building departments would usually approve. But don't worry because it is safe and in case you are wondering, yes they got the approval.

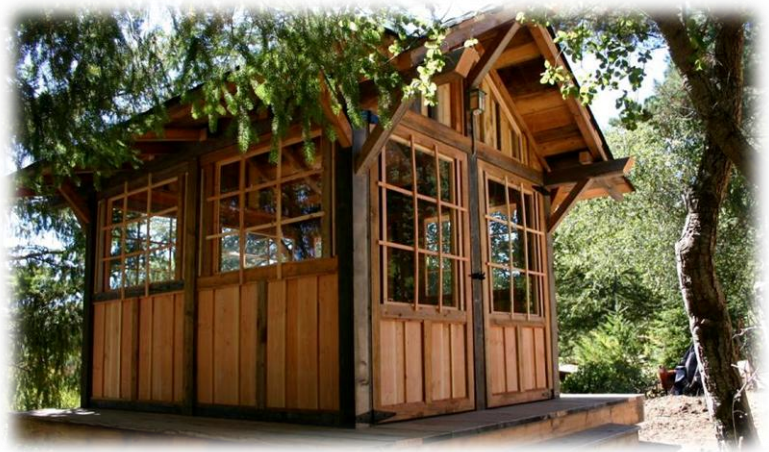
Check out more information about this house on 'Small House Bliss' website seen below.

Source: SMALL HOUSE BLISS

Link: [SMALL HOUSE BLISS](#)

## 18. CUTE LITTLE TEA HOUSE CABIN

Weekends should be spent relaxed and chilled with your loved ones and away from your usual busy working life. You need breathing space. We all need to take a break once in a while, so we don't get burned out from working and we can go back to our tasks and office desks



feeling refreshed. Going on a trip out of town and renting a small cabin is one of the things that you could do for a brief moment of getaway. It doesn't have to be a luxurious trip; it just has to be serene. And what could be more serene than hanging out in a teahouse.

Thanks to Molecule Tiny Homes, they built and designed this cool nook using reclaimed logs. This cabin will bring you hand to hand with nature. It was perfectly designed for aesthetics and security purposes. Its roof is something that will catch your attention, with its flared design, giving it a unique look. You won't have a problem dealing with breathing in fresh air here because aside from the fact that it is surrounded by trees, you can open all the windows and doors and fill the cabin with fresh air and light.

This cabin is ideal for a retreat or a camping session with friends and family. You could also use this as a spot for your tea session, if you decide to simply want a change of atmosphere. Nevertheless, anyone who will visit this place would go home satisfied and would probably want to extend their vacation here. Go ahead and take a weekend off to explore the woods, while staying safe in this lovely cabin with your loved ones. This is going to be an experience you will not forget.

Check out more information about this house on "Small House Bliss" website seen below.

Source: Small House Bliss

Link: [Small House Bliss](#)



## 19. DIY TINY HOUSE FOR LESS THAN \$3500

Is it possible to build a tiny home DIY for under \$3500 dollars? With costs of building constantly soaring, we look around to find some experiences of others to get a better idea if it is at all possible to build a tiny home for just a few thousand dollars. An



example we found of this being possible was of Jenine Alexander who decided that she should build her tiny home on wheels, (or on a trailer so to speak). The benefit of building on a trailer is that it makes it possible to move your home in situations that change with the land you are on. Of course, moving around the trailer would not be something that you want to do often; it is certainly something that can be done if needed. One way that innovative folks are able to make this dream happen for them at a lower cost, is to be creative with the materials that get used. We are a culture of 'throw away' and 'junk removal', but so often the junk that we are removing is not really junk, we are simply too lazy to deal with it. There could be old doors, old windows, piles of wood, sinks that are absolutely perfect, but maybe you just want a new faucet head, so you replace it. It is unfortunate that in a lot of cities, it is frowned upon and sometimes even not permitted to go to the dump to scavenge and find good quality, still perfectly useable items that with the right person may just need a little TLC and some elbow grease.

If going to the dump is not for you, a great way to find throw away materials is using the bargain hunters. There are always people advertising the free items so long as you are willing to pick it up. Perhaps one of the most valuable items that you could own for a DIY tiny home would be your own truck so that you could zip around your city and collect materials that are being tossed into the dump.

Craigslist and 'USED' types of websites are very great resources nowadays to find giveaways. I know for myself, so often due to a busy schedule I will be more than happy to give away something for free just so it is out of my sight.

Jenine has built her home with enough storage, light and space all using recycled materials. She also saved money by using a chamber pot rather than a working bathroom, which may or may not be your cup of tea, but is good to know that it is possible.

Source: Off Grid World

Link: [Off Grid World](#)

## 20. THE BACKYARD STUDIO

If you're a writer, we're quite certain that you will appreciate this space that we are about to feature. So as early as now, we would like to say, "You're welcome." But before you completely thank us, might as well read this entire article because this will surely inspire you to write even more. We have to warn you that this also might cost you a lot if you plan to put up something like this on your own. The architecture and the materials used here all high quality. We would like to say the price is reasonable for building a backyard writing studio.



Located in a suburban area in Decatur, Georgia; this writing studio is so captivating that any professional writer would be more productive with their craft and would find themselves writing more decent materials. The ideas won't stop flowing when you have a peaceful and serene place to work at. The size of this space is 450 ft<sup>2</sup> (41.8 m<sup>2</sup>), and it already comes with a sitting area, a cool workspace, and a little library. This is not a house, but it's still conducive for dwelling.

It has a lounge, and it has wide windows, so you won't have a problem gaining natural light. If you want to work privately with strictly no one to disturb you, this place is perfect. This is a studio doesn't have to be solely for writing. It can also be used as a retreat area for family.

This studio is fire-proof and harmful insects can't be found here because of the Cypress finish that the architect included in here. It was a bit burned, and that is why it was dark in color. It was all intentional so that it would also be resistant to rot.

Check out more information about this house on 'Small House Bliss' website seen below.

Source: Small House Bliss

Link: [Small House Bliss](#)