

**2000 LOG CHINKING STANDARDS**  
**Addendum to ILBA standards as of Oct. 27, 2001**

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**COMMENTARY**

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**2.A.2.** Same as full scribe. For purposes of chinking application, check with manufacturer as to proper moisture content of logs at the time of chinking application.

**2.B.** See chink gap section **2.D.** for more details.

**Chink Gap**

**2.D.** The chink gap is a continuous air space separating logs between interlocking corners and/or window and door openings; it should be interrupted only by required structural blocking.

**2.D.1.** Chink gaps will be continuous without "holdups" at any point along the length.

**2.D.3.** The width of chinking from inside face to outside face will vary depending upon chink gap size and log diameter. 8" is the minimum log diameter.

**2.D.7.** Blocking supports the log walls at the span and at door and window openings. The flats, being level in both directions and centered on the chink gap, prevent blocking from rolling in the chink gap. An engineering analysis is recommended to determine distance between blocking. Additional blocking may be required at load bearing points. If blocking supports the log end at an opening, it must be installed so as not to hinder settling, buck installation and chink installation. The blocking should fall in a vertical column. In addition, pinning will provide stability

Examples of blocking:

1"x4" or 2"x4" kiln dried lumber, 4" long

3 1/2 "x4" plywood 1/8" and thicker

3 1/2"x4"x1/8" masonite

30# felt

See diagrams **2.D.1.** and **2.D.2.**

**2.D.8.** The amount and kind of wall pinning depends upon local conditions and codes. In areas of extreme wind and seismic load conditions, continuous through bolting the full height of the logs can be an effective technique.

Examples of wall pinning:

Wood dowels, smooth shaft steel pins, through-bolts, lag screws, steel bar or log stub walls.

- 2.D.9.** Synthetic chinking should always be installed according to manufacturer's specifications. Moisture content of the logs should be checked. Some manufacturers recommend a 20% or less moisture content. For traditional or local chink mixtures, check local building or energy codes to see if they are acceptable. Cohesion failure of the chinking is preferred because it is easier, faster and much less expensive to repair.
- 2.E.5.** All extensions between heated and unheated space shall be chinked to cover blocking and pins. Others areas are optional.
- 2.F.1.** Same as full scribe standards.
- 2.G.3.** Same as full scribe standard.
- 2.H.1.** Same as full scribe standard.
- 2.I.2.** Same as full scribe standard.
- 2.J.2.** The top kerf must be deep enough to promote checking. The amount of wood removed by the kerf should be between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the log depth.

## **Section II-Chinking (Synthetic)**

- II.** Chinking is the material that goes between the logs to fill the chink gap. It acts as a barrier against air, insects, moisture and dust infiltration and acts as a form of insulation.
  
- II.A.1.** Backer rod comes in many forms. Each manufacturer has its preference as to style (flat or round) and type (closed cell or open cell). Using the manufacturer's guidelines is recommended. When changing size in backer rod due to varying chink gap, do so gradually to allow for a smooth transition in the chinking material.  
(Note: Installing backer rod with adhesives, spray or otherwise, can lead to poor adhesion of chinking. Follow manufacturer's guidelines.)
  
- II.A.2.** Synthetic chinking shall be applied according to manufacturer's guidelines. It should have an attractive, natural texture. The edges of the joint should be clean and crisp where the chinking meets the log. The backer rod should not show through the chinking at any point. See figure **II.A.**.
  
- II.A.3.** When internal gaskets are used, air, water and insect infiltration is restricted. Without gaskets, the chinking material becomes the barrier to infiltration.
  
- II.A.4.** Wetout is the condition where too much of a release agent (isopropyl alcohol combined with 50% water) is used to trowel the chinking material. Excessive wetting may prevent the chinking from properly adhering to the wood.