Cold Weather Chinking

Log Jam® can be applied in cold weather by following these instructions:

1. Make sure the log surfaces are above 40˚F (4˚C). Use a surface thermometer to double-check.
2. Keep the chinking at room temperature until ready to use.
3. Make sure the logs are free of frost.
4. Tent out the walls with clear plastic sheeting and keep them warm with heaters, then apply chinking.
5. Make sure there is air circulation so moisture doesn't form on the logs, causing a washout. Some venting up high will help with this problem.
6. Leave the tent intact day and night while chinking, and for 2 to 4 days after chinking is complete.
7. Finally, remove the plastic sheeting.

This should be sufficient to let the Log Jam® skin over and slowly cure. Due to cold temperatures, it will take much longer than normal for the Log Jam® to fully cure, but it will be fine if left undisturbed. Warn people to avoid pushing on for several weeks.

Methods of Application

When using 5-gallon pails, Sashco's patented Snorkler™ chink pump, grout bags or bulk loading guns may be used.

When using a cartridge, cut the spout at a 45˚ angle to desired bead size. In wider joints, multiple beads may need to be run until the entire joint is filled with chinking.

Tooling

When applying Log Jam® in temperatures below 70˚F (21˚C), a mixture of 1-part denatured alcohol to 2-parts water can be used for misting the chinking immediately prior to tooling. When the temperature is over 70˚F (21˚C), water alone will be sufficient. The techniques discussed below will give an aesthetically pleasing chinking line, as well as ensure a proper seal between the Log Jam® and the log surface.

Tooling Log Jam® on Round Logs: Work the material smooth with a damp foam brush, keeping a rag handy to clean up drips of water and excess Log Jam®.

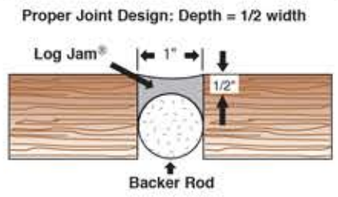
Tooling Log Jam® on Square Logs: Use a putty knife to strike off excess Log Jam®, making the joint level with the logs. Use a damp foam brush to smooth the material, keeping a rag handy to clean up drips and wipe off excess Log Jam®.

New Construction

Joint Design

The diagram shows the ideal type of joint design for all sealants—which allows for maximum sealant movement and favors cohesive failure (the best kind) if the movement is so extreme that failure cannot be avoided. Round backer rod is best, especially when substantial movement is expected, as with "green" logs. The chink line should be no less than 15% of the log width. For example, with 10" diameter logs, the chink joint should be about 1 1/2" wide. If you choose to apply a smaller bead, expect more chinking repairs.

Ideal sealant depth is half of the joint width, but no less than 1/4", nor more than 1/2".



Restoration

Wood should be clean and stained, as discussed in the Fundamental Chinking Application Guidelines on page 1. Remove all loose mortar.

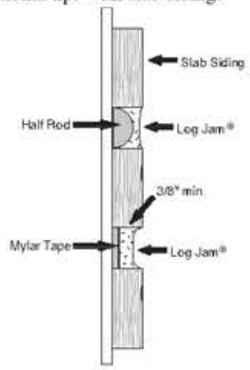
Bond-Breaker: When using Log Jam® as a restoration chinking over old mortar, cover the old mortar with clear packing tape, which provides a surface Log Jam® will not stick to. When movement occurs, the Log Jam® will be free to stretch.

Tooling: Log Jam® should be tooled to contact at least 1/2" of the bare wood surface on either side of the old mortar. This will ensure adequate adhesion.

Slab Siding

Slab siding can pose a special challenge due to the very rapid and large amount of movement it often exhibits after being installed. This movement shows up as extreme shrinkage, bowing and twisting, and can stress sealants more than logs do. To help reduce this problem, follow these additional tips with slab siding:

1. Use only dry slab siding (19% or less moisture content level, verified with a moisture meter)
2. Install the siding with heavy screws, not nails.
3. If applying over Tyvek™ house wrap, make sure the Tyvek™ is wrinkle free and tape over it with clear packing tape.
4. If the boards are thick enough, install Half Rod backer rod with the round portion of the profile facing out. This will provide for the best joint design. (Refer to the graphic.)



Warning: Blisters May Occur

Blisters are a common phenomenon with chinking and caulking products and are caused by a variety of things. Blisters appear as "bubbles" in the chink line and can vary widely in size.

To help prevent blisters, shield freshly chinked walls from the sun with white tarps. If this cannot be done, keep a close eye on the chinked wall for the first 24-48 hours. If a blister begins to develop:

- Pop the blister and gently push the material back into place
- 3 to 5 days later, apply a skim coat of Log Jam® and tool to blend in.

For more detailed information on blisters, download or call us for a copy of the Sashco Savvy Bulletin entitled "Preventing Blisters in Chinking Material."

Clean-up and Disposal

Dispose of Log Jam® in accordance with local regulations. Do not dispose of in drinking water supplies. Hands, surfaces and equipment may be cleaned up with water.

Logs Move!

Occasionally, a small number of logs on any home may undergo extreme movement. This movement is a natural part of the logs moisture content adjusting to their new settings. Most logs, as they dry (or go through the repeated process of taking on and giving up moisture), will undergo moderate levels of stress on sealants applied to them. An occasional log will randomly and unpredictably twist, shrink or warp in response to these moisture changes, moving more than any sealant can possibly handle. When this extreme movement occurs, it will cause the sealant to fail either cohesively or adhesively.

If the failure is cohesive (sealant splits apart), then the repair is performed by simply cleaning the surfaces of the failed sealant and reapplying more. If the failure is adhesive (sealant pulls cleanly away from the substrate), then the sealant usually needs to be removed and completely reinstalled.

Round Logs

1. Install Grip Strip into caulk well of clean, stained logs.
2. Or, install backer rod into caulk well of clean, stained logs.
3. Gun Log Jam® over the backer rod.
4. Lightly mist the Log Jam® as needed.
5. Tool to ensure a tight seal to the top and bottom of the chink line.

Appalachian Style Logs

1. Start with logs that are stained with a coating compatible to Log Jam® and have properly installed backer material.
2. Tape the entire joint using polyester tape.
3. Gun Log Jam® over the backer material.
4. Lightly mist the trowel as needed.
5. Tool to ensure a tight seal to the top and bottom of the chink line.

Corner Joints

1. Install backer rod into corners of clean, stained logs.
2. Gun Log Jam® over the backer rod.
3. Lightly mist the Log Jam® as needed.
4. Tool to ensure a tight seal.

**NOTE: Use a bond breaker (e.g. backer rod) when significant log movement could occur. When movement is known to be minimal (as with many older homes) using backer rod is still best, but usually less critical.*

First Aid

EYES: Immediately flush with large quantities of water for at least 15 minutes. If irritation persists, see a medical doctor.

SKIN: Wash with soap and water and rinse thoroughly. Wash contaminated clothing before use.

INHALATION: Remove to fresh air.

INGESTION: If large quantities are swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING - seek medical help.

Warranty

For a detailed description of the warranty and exclusions, please visit **www.sashco.com/legal-notices**.