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web features



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Home of the Month

More images from a summer sanctuary in Michigan (page 34), a place where time is measured by generations of joy.

loghomeliving.com/homeofthemoth

Great Deals

Clare Martin, the magazine's savviest of shoppers, hunted down some sweet end-of-the-summer deals. She shares them with you online.

loghomeliving.com/clareswares

Home Design With Nature in Mind

It might sound a little odd, but the principles of "biomimicry" make a world a sense. The upshot: Keep nature's delicate balance in your log-home plans. We outline some great ideas.

loghomeliving.com/bio

Safe Cleaning Products

Check out three 100-percent safe home-made cleaning products—and learn just how effective they are.

loghomeliving.com/clean

Join the Neighborhood

Visit a place where the chats are informative, inspirational and fun: loghomeu.com. Better yet, join this community of log-home enthusiasts! It's a great way to keep in touch with folks across North America—many of whom are either planning a log home or already living in one.



model of efficiency

By Wyatt Myers

Alta Log Homes' Greenbriar design is the model of energy efficiency. It's a LEED-certified log home, though the only visible indicators are the solar panels on the rear roof and, of course, the gorgeous log walls.

Saving money and the planet can be done in tandem. Here are 9 tips to dramatically “green up” your log home.



Unless you've been hiding under a rock, you've probably heard enough about “going green” over the past few years to make you turn green.

But behind the buzz is an important message: Outfit your home with the right appliances, fixtures and components, and you'll not only help save the planet but save your bank account, too. When you consider that 17 percent of the greenhouse gases in this country come from our homes—that's about 9,000 pounds per person per year—maybe it's time for a change.

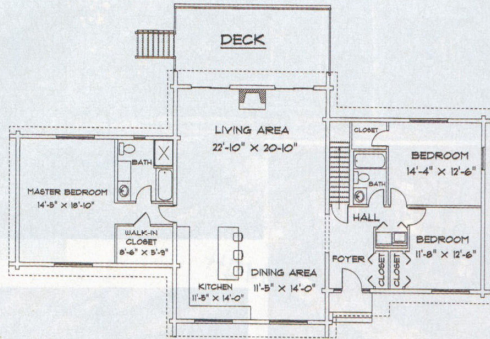
To make green more than just a buzzword, the U.S. Green Building Council has established guidelines for green building known as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. “It's an immediate and measurable tool that gives builders a national best-in-class benchmark for green homebuilding,” says Ashley Katz, communications coordinator for the U.S. Green Building Council. “There are currently 11,390 homes across the U.S. involved in the LEED for Homes program, and 502 homes that have already been LEED certified as a green home.” More than a handful of those are log homes.

Essentially, the LEED for Homes program is a points-based system. The more green home components you have, the more points you get toward your LEED certification. While a green home is often only slightly more expensive to build upfront, it will pay dividends on the back end. Just to name a few examples: Energy Star windows cost 15 percent more than standard windows but will pay for themselves and end up saving you money in five to 12 years. And radiant heating costs twice as much to install but saves you 50 percent on your heating bills.

If you're interested in building your own LEED-certified home, talk to a LEED-certified builder. (The U.S. Green Building Council has builder leads at usgbc.org.) As a brief overview, here are 9 key components that may be found in any LEED-certified home.

LEED Greenbriar

There's been a rumor flying around for, oh, about 20 years, that energy-efficient homes have to be ugly little hovels that require lots of personal sacrifice. Of course, it's simply not true—and the LEED Greenbriar proves it, with a smart design that will complement any lifestyle. The first LEED-certified log home in the nation boasts single-level living and an intelligent use of space, including an expansive kitchen, dining and living area that spill onto a spacious deck. We also love the bedroom wings—a great way to offer privacy—because they don't eat up too much square footage. Simplicity has its virtues in home planning, especially when it comes to creating something as earth-friendly as a log home. Alta Log Homes' design team capitalizes on this philosophy with gorgeous results.



The following Focus on Floor Plans is a paid advertising section, and the package pricing information for the floor plans has been supplied by the respective companies. Feel free to work with producers to alter their plans, but copyright issues prevent "shopping around" specific plans or other companies' work. Floor plans shown are an artist's rendering. For actual floor plan, contact the company directly.

For more information about this plan, see page 82.

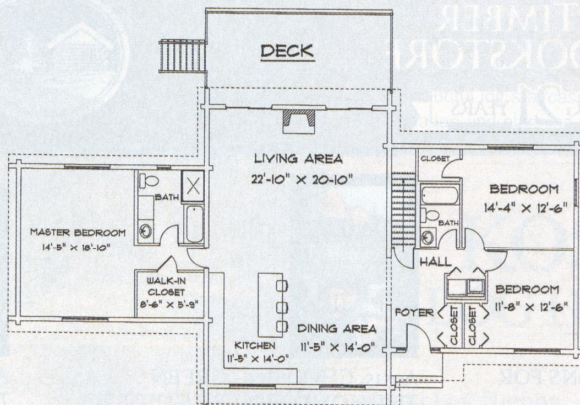
Alta Log Homes



Alta Log Homes' LEED Greenbriar stands apart in classic style and modern design. First LEED certified log home in the country. Solar panels and Energy Star 5-star-plus rating cuts your energy costs 30 to 50 percent. Let the experts at Alta show you how to make building green affordable.

LEED Greenbriar

- Bedrooms: 3
- Baths: 2
- Square Footage: 1,980
- Package Price: Call for prices



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