

## LOG AND TIMBER STAIR INSTALLATION

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** The installation of log or timber stringers and treads is very similar to installing any conventional staircase. Each situation is unique and on-site modifications may be needed. Therefore the following suggestions should serve as a guide. Your log stairs are a raw log product and may require sanding to remove manufacturing marks and cuts before finishing. All full log products are air dried and naturally develop cracks or checks, which are unavoidable and enhance their rustic appeal. Log staircases may not meet code in all areas or may need extra boards so please verify with your local building inspector prior to installation.

The log or timber stringers come with all the notches for the treads to sit in, but will need the top and bottom angles of the stringers cut onsite. The ends are not cut to prevent damage while shipping.

We mark where to cut the log stringers and send a jig with each log staircase to ease the process. Please verify markings are correct before any cutting is done. The log stringer jig should be screwed in place before cutting to ensure the angle on stringer doesn't change. This safeguards the notches will be flat when treads are put in place.



In order to meet building codes, you want the first step down onto the tread to be the same height as all other treads including the last tread to the floor, usually around 7 ¼ to 8 inches. Make sure to account for any finished flooring being added to the height of both floors. Once you verify the first and last steps are even in height, mark and cut the angle on the top and bottom end of the stringers. Add joist extensions if they are needed before continuing to ensure a stable connection.

Position the stringers in the staircase opening (it will be helpful to screw a 2x6 board to the floor to prevent the stringer from sliding down once in position).



**Log Staircase:** Make sure the stringers are spaced correctly in the opening to allow for the log treads to overhang each stringer. Overhangs of 3 – 10 inches are common and should match. Use two timber screws per stringer on the top end of the stringers. Measure the distance between the stringers at the top of the staircase and measure out the same distance at the bottom. Double check that the stringers are centered in the opening and fasten the stringers through the floor and into the floor joists using two timber screws for each stringer.

Position and center each log stair tread on the stringers ensuring they are level. Either timber screw from the top down into each stringer from the center of the tread or timber screw from the

underside of the stringer into the tread. Countersink the head into the tread or stringer. Plug the hole if desired.

**Timber Staircase:** Make sure the stringers are spaced correctly in the opening and slide the first couple treads into the grooves on the stringers. With the tread tight into both sides, go under each tread and toenail three 3” screws (each side) up through the tread into the stringers countersinking ¼”. A pipe clamp or ratchet strap may be needed to confirm the stringers stay tight against the treads.



Slide the top tread into place and confirm the riser heights are all the same (finished floor heights may be different than subfloor). Use two timber screws per stringer on the top end of the stringers to attach them in place. Double check that the stringers are centered in the opening and fasten the stringers up through the floor joists, subfloor and into the bottom of the stringers using two timber screws for each. You may have to add additional framing if you are unable to go through floor joists. Continue installing the remainder of the treads working up the staircase as directed above. Wood filler may be used to hide screws holes under the treads.

**Finishing:** Sanding may be needed once install is complete. Staircase can be finished with your choice of high quality interior stain or polyurethane. To avoid making the staircase too slippery it is not recommended to go with a high gloss polyurethane.

For further assistance call 1-800-657-4666 Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:30 pm