



beauty & style, naturally

Your Log Cabin Tips & Features for buyers

The log cabin industry is still relatively new and like other new industries there are some cowboys. They give the industry a bad name and could give you a real headache. There are however a few tips to help you avoid buying a pup!

Planning permission

Make sure of your position regarding planning permission, a lot of structures do not need planning permission, or you may already have permission (say to replace an existing structure) but you should always check, either on the website www.planningportal.gov.uk or your local Borough Council Planning office.

Standards

Ensure that the cabin you buy has been built to an agreed standard i.e. Building Regulations or a British or European Standard, for example BS6764, ISO 8817 Habitation & stability requirements for leisure accommodation: leisure homes. If you buy a chalet built without specifying a standard and then have a problem, you will have difficulties in establishing what you could reasonably expect. For instance all door and adjacent window glass and any other glass below 900mm from the finished floor level should be safety glass to BS 6206, children would be particularly at risk if this is not done.

Treatment

Make sure that the cabin is pressure treated, without adequate protection your chalet is at risk from wood boring insects and fungal infestation which leads subsequently to decay.

Security

Check out the level of security available particularly on the windows and doors there is a BS for security and a higher level is important nowadays. Some products on the market can be broken into in seconds: would you want that to happen?

Make sure that you know what you are getting for the price & model cabin that you are buying. Check & re-check that you are getting exactly what you want for an agreed price. Look at whether the quote includes for treatment, delivery, insulation, installation, staining & varnishing.

Specification

Make sure that you are clear in your own mind what you want, then communicate that clearly to your intended supplier. Choose a company who will give you what you want/need rather than one that tries to sell you a standard product.

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If you are having your base put in by a local builder or separate company, ask your supplier to ensure that the size you are having it built to is correct and that it is level and flat smooth finished and also that the service entry points are positioned correctly. If you do not get all of these issues right, there may be problems during installation which could cost additional money, lose time and possibly even leave a finished job that you are unhappy with.

Sampling

There is no substitute for seeing and walking around a completed cabin, it gives you a better understanding of the substantial nature or otherwise of the buildings, their appearance, construction and finishes available. You will get a feel for the room sizes and the space that you will have on completion and after it has all been furnished.

Environmental credentials

In these days of global warming and carbon emissions it is comforting to know that it is feasible to achieve a zero carbon footprint for a cabin so check what the company you want to deal with can tell you about the actual performance of their cabins and what they can build into their design & make your building as environmentally friendly as you wish. In the long term of course this will significantly reduce your running costs.

Make sure that the timber is from a sustainable source and is slow grown as the wood will be denser and longer lasting and less likely to split and shrink and have a better appearance.

Guarantees

Ensure that your cabin is covered by a long guarantee and check the wording to satisfy yourself that it actually means something.

Enjoy

Once completed, sit back and enjoy the peace of mind which comes from an end product bought wisely thanks to your careful and considerate attention to an expensive project.