



Guide to Building Your Dream Log Home – The Ward Way

By Ward Cedar Log Homes: A Personalized Process, Over 100 Years in the Making

Building a log home isn't just about wood and blueprints; it's about creating a lifestyle and a place that reflects who you are and how you want to live. At Ward, we've been helping people build custom cedar log homes for over a century. This guide will walk you through *The Ward Way*, our six-step process created to simplify and personalize your experience.

1. Dream

It all starts with your dream.

Every great home begins with a spark of inspiration: maybe it's the view from your future front porch, a loft for your grandkids, or the feeling when you walk through the front door.

In This Stage:

- Browse 40+ standard floor plans from our Premier, Cedar Valley, Hybrid, and Camp Series.
- Sketch your ideas, save photos, and take notes
- Think about
 - How will you use the space year-round?
 - What's the feeling you want when you walk inside your home?
 - Are you downsizing or expanding for family?
- Decided on your must-haves vs. wants

Ward Insight: You don't have to pick a standard plan. Every Ward home can be customized to meet your needs or go you can completely custom, at no extra design cost.

2. Connect

We take the time to listen, so your home fits your life, not the other way around.

Once you've started dreaming, it's time to talk with someone who gets what you are looking for. That's where we come in.

Here's What Happens:

- You'll speak with your local Ward representative or a team member from the main office.

- Share your ideas, sketches, photos, or wish list.
- We'll help you refine your vision and:
 - Answer any questions about timelines, budgets, land, etc.
 - Discuss your site if you already own land (slope, access, views)
 - Recommend a floor plan and ideas.
- Get a preliminary price estimate so you can budget smartly.

Helpful Tip: Start planning even if you don't have land yet. Talking with us early often saves you time and costly rework later.

3. Design

A home that fits your land, your lifestyle, and your future.

Your home should be as unique as you are, and that's why we don't take a cookie-cutter approach. Our in-house design/engineering team works with you (and your builder if needed) to bring your vision to life.

We'll Collaborate On:

- Layout refinements (expand rooms, shift windows/doors, add a loft, etc.).
- Exterior style preferences such as rooflines, porches, and dormers.
- Interior flow (open concept or more defined spaces).
- Log profile options, whether you decide on D-Shape logs, clapboard logs, or go with a hybrid log home.
- Corner styles like butt & pass or cornerboards.

Ward Edge: All of our homes are built using Northern White Cedar that is naturally insect-resistant, low-maintenance, and highly durable.

4. Plan & Place Your Order

Secure your design, set your timeline, and get ready to build.

Once your design is finalized and you're ready to move forward with your investment, it's time to secure your project and get on the schedule.

Here's What This Step Includes:

- Review and approve your plans and quote
- Send in your 25% initial investment to secure your spot in our production schedule.
- Work with your builder (or us) to finalize your construction timeline.
- Secure permits, land prep, financing, and any additional needs.

Ward Option: Not ready to build just yet? You can purchase just the plans for 3% of your home package price, which gets credited towards your purchase of your home for up to 12 months.

5. Build & Deliver

Precision-milled materials that are pre-cut and numbered. Delivered on time and built to last.

Once your design is finalized and your purchase agreement is signed, your custom log home package goes into production at our mill in Houlton, ME.

What You Can Expect:

- Your log home materials package ships in as little as 8-12 weeks once you have provided final approval of plans and your initial investment has been received.
- Your logs are pre-cut and numbered, and other items are labeled and ready for assembly. This makes your builder's job easier and faster.
- Your log package includes:
 - Floor system, Log walls, interior wall framing with T&G, roof system, T&G for ceilings
 - Loft floor framing with 2x T&G V-match flooring
 - Andersen windows, Therma-Tru exterior doors, porch and deck materials, and more
- Your builder or you, if you are building it yourself, uses our 110-page detailed Construction Manual along with well-detailed construction drawings.

6. Support

We're with you before, during, and long after delivery.

This is one of the ways that makes Ward different. We don't just drop materials off at your home site. We're your partner through it all.

Our Ongoing Support Includes:

- Construction support for your builder or you (phone, email, video conference).
- Regular check-ins from your Ward representative or home office.
- A 20-year Warranty against structural defects in your log components that Ward manufactures.
- Help with refinements and product recommendations, such as stain after you move in.

Ward Touch: We've had customers call us 10+ years later, and we are still here to help. That's the benefit of 100+ years of doing it right.

Bonus Section: Planning Smart

Budgeting Basics:

- Log home packages can range from \$40,000 (camps) to \$150,000 and up.
- Be sure to factor in site costs: Foundation, driveway, well/septic.
- Labor: General Contractor vs. Do-it-yourself labor.
- Plumbing, heating, and electrical.
- Interior Finishes: Cabinets, flooring, fixtures, etc.

Common Questions:

- **Do I need land first?** No, but we will help you plan based on location
- **Can I modify a floor plan?** Yes, move walls, change sizes, adjust windows, and more. Or go completely custom at no additional cost.
- **How long does it take?** As a general rule, plan to reach out to us at least six months to a year before you want to begin building. This will give you time to make thoughtful, unhurried decisions concerning layout and finishes.

Let's Begin Your Legacy

Whether you're ready to build your dream log home or just exploring ideas, our team is excited to guide you. Every question matters to us, and we're here to ensure your experience is smooth, enjoyable, and tailored to your needs. Let's build something timeless together - we can't wait to hear from you.

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