EXCLUSIVE! COMPLETE WOOD CARE GUIDE

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IN

NO-SWEAT LANDSCAPING

THE MOST POPULAR FLOOR PLANS

HOW TO DESIGN the right home for you BUILD on time, on budget IMPROVE outdoor living PRESERVE logs' like-new look

DREA

FLOOR PLANS

starting small

DIYers looking for a manageable project.



Robert and Jack

ith years of experience remodeling and building, Jack and Robert are confident DIYers. Still, they'd like to keep their new home small, since it will be their first attempt at log construction. Their site in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains is wooded and peaceful. If the home project goes well, they foresee adding a log garage with bonus space above in the future.

Why a log home? Jack has dreamed of owning a log home since he was a boy. After researching log homes and attending log-home shows, Robert is excited about the idea, too.

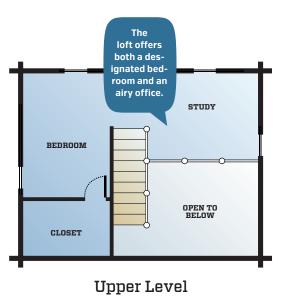
Most important features: "We love being outdoors," Jack says. Outdoor living space is a must-have, along with a loft overlooking the main floor. An open floor plan would help the small home feel larger and give them the classic log-home look they prefer.

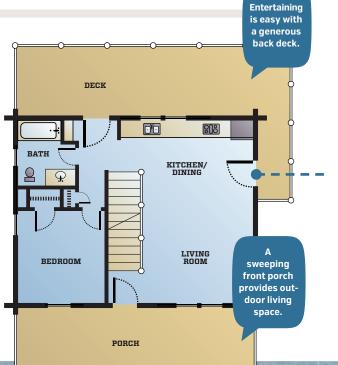
The Inside Scoop

There are many reasons to build a

home in phases. Maybe your initial budget is limited. Maybe you plan to build a seasonal home now, then live there fulltime in the future. Or maybe, like Jack and Robert, you want to build it yourself. Designer Lynda Tompkins suggests:

- **DISCUSSING** your plans carefully with your designer or architect from the start to help make future construction easier.
- PLANNING where and how later phases will be linked to the original structure. For instance, attaching new construction to a solid corner post may be easier than attaching to a corner with exposed log ends.
- DECIDING if you want to match log styles or mix exterior materials in each phase.
- KEEPING AN OPEN MIND. You might love the reduced maintenance and utility costs of a small home so much that you decide not to expand in the future.





The kitchen door can be enlarged when the breezeway to the new garage is built.

The Lowdown

Timberhaven Log Homes, a producer in Pennsylvania, offers a plan for Robert and Jack that's compact but opens to the outdoors. Designer Lynda Tompkins suggests a main-floor master suite and a loft with bedroom and study upstairs. Plenty of windows would ensure that the home feels connected to the outdoors. A side entry in the kitchen could attach to a breezeway leading to the garage that Jack and Robert want to build.

PLAN SPECS

Square Footage: 1,000 Bedrooms: 2 Baths: 1

An open living area with vaulted ceiling makes the home seem larger.

> The plan's simple shape makes log construction easier.



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