

GARDEN*inspirations*®

finnlife log cabin  
general instruction manual

Helppo - Helsinki - Joki - Montrose  
Kemi - Kesa - Pori - Ruska - Seitä - Valko

# 1.0 introduction

Those lazy summer afternoons may be beckoning, but don't rush to build your Finnlife Log Cabin. Take the time to understand how it goes together, and you'll enjoy many years of trouble-free pleasure.

No specialist skills are required. Anyone can build a Finnlife log cabin, although some tasks may require more than one pair of hands. Construction times will vary depending on your skills and the number of people who help you.

Of course you don't have to do it yourself. You could hand this booklet to a professional builder; then sit back until he presents you with the keys to your finished cabin.

Whoever does the job, the first stage is to familiarise yourself with these instructions. The trick is to be methodical and to plan ahead.

If you're looking for information on a specific topic, refer to the contents list below or to the glossary on page 47. For a complete parts list and detailed wall and floor plans please see the separate cabin-specific instruction manual.

## building plans, parts list and model-specific instructions

Although Finnlife log cabins share many features in common, each model style is unique. These general instructions cover the basics of cabin construction that apply to all Finnlife cabins. For features that are unique to your log cabin – such as dimensions, component numbers, building plans and parts lists – you should refer to the separate Building Plans and Parts List.

If you are building cabins Helppo, Helsinki, Joki, Kemi, Kesa, Montrose, Pori, Ruska, Seita and Valko be aware that certain instructions differ slightly from those in this general manual. When this is the case the icon below will appear, instructing you to refer to the cabin-specific manual.



# 2.0 contents

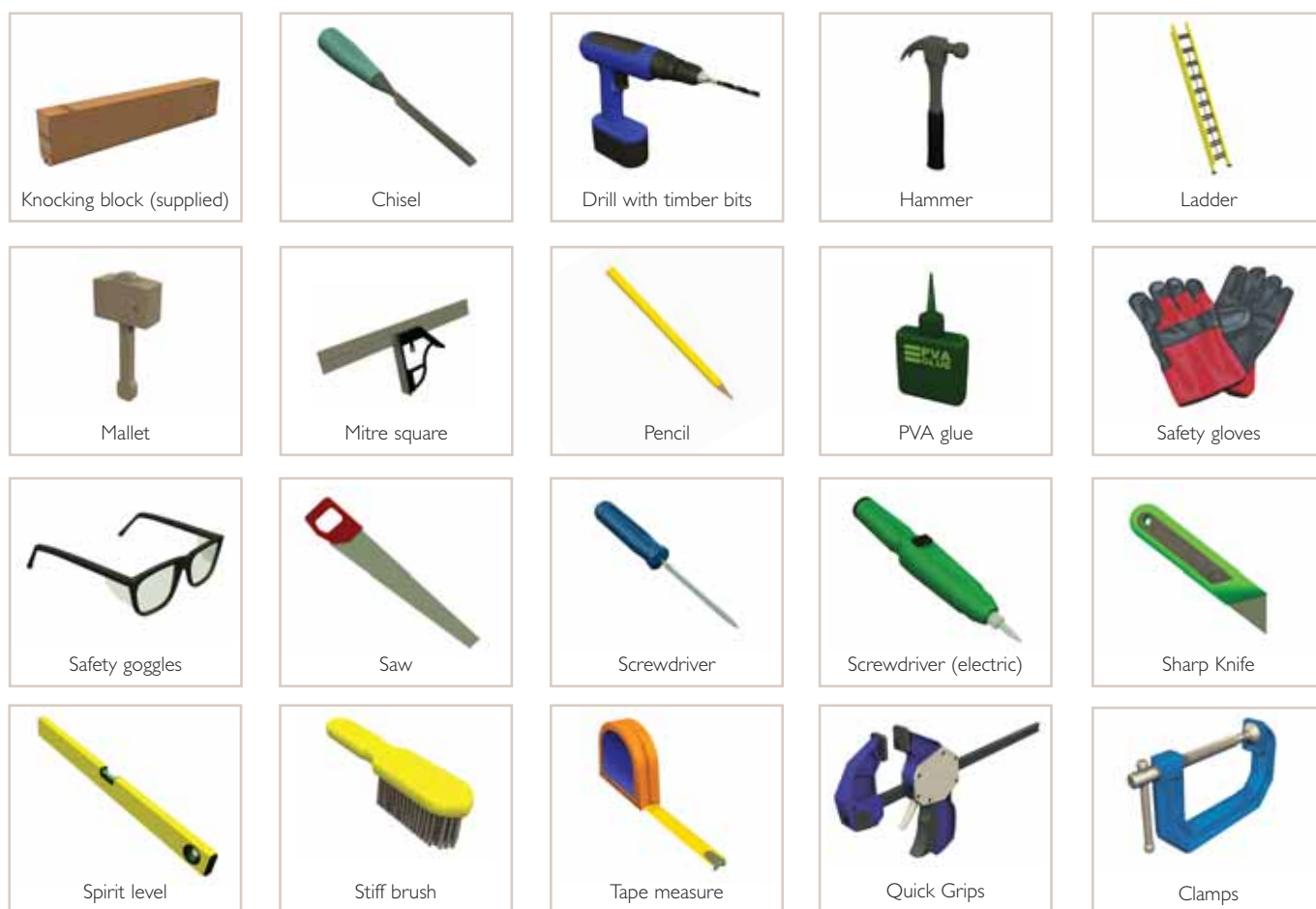
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\*Sections with an asterisk do not apply to all cabins.

## 3.0 planning consent and building regulations

In most cases you do not need planning permission to build a Finnlife log cabin in your garden; it is usually also exempt from building regulations. It would be advantageous to contact your local authority to ensure they are happy for you to proceed before arranging installation.

## 4.0 tool list - what you need



PLEASE NOTE: Most nails, screws, nuts and bolts are supplied with your cabin – you may need extra screws for the foundations.

## 5.0 delivery, checking and storage

Your Finnlife log cabin comes wrapped in polythene for protection, and strapped to one or more pallets (depending on the model) for ease of transport.

The transit packaging allows for ventilation: it is not waterproof. Please store your wrapped cabin in a dry place, protected from rain and sun. Ensure cabin components are not in contact with the ground.

NB: The polythene transit packaging works well as a damp-proof membrane when laid in strips above and below the floor beams. If you wish to use the transit packaging in this way, take care when unwrapping the pallets. Avoid making unnecessary cuts and retain as much of the polythene as you can.

# 6.0 foundations and preparation



You can build your log cabin on foundations of concrete or on compressed gravel. Whichever option you choose, a firm and level base is essential. Time spent on the foundations is well invested. For your specific base size please see your floor plan in the model specific manual. An uneven or unstable base will affect the final outcome of the log cabin, doors and windows will NOT function properly, walls may bow and joints may not fit together.

## Concrete option:

### 6.c1

Remove all organic matter before you start work on the foundations.

### 6.c2

Concrete foundations should always be the exact base size stated in the Parts List and Plans instructions to minimise the amount of water that the base will carry. It is recommended the concrete base be 6 inches thick.



*We recommend that the DPC membrane is cut into strips to cover the top and bottom of the joist only. Recycle the wrapping that has come with the cabin to use as the DPC membrane on the top and bottom of the joists (see page 9).*



### 6.g1

Remove all organic matter before you start work on the foundations.

### 6.g2

Foundations should always be laid larger than the footprint of your cabin – **300mm wider** in every direction and 6" thick when using compressed type I gravel.

### 6.g3

For compressed gravel foundations you should use retaining boards to keep the gravel in place and compressed.



## 7.0 laying out, checking and sorting

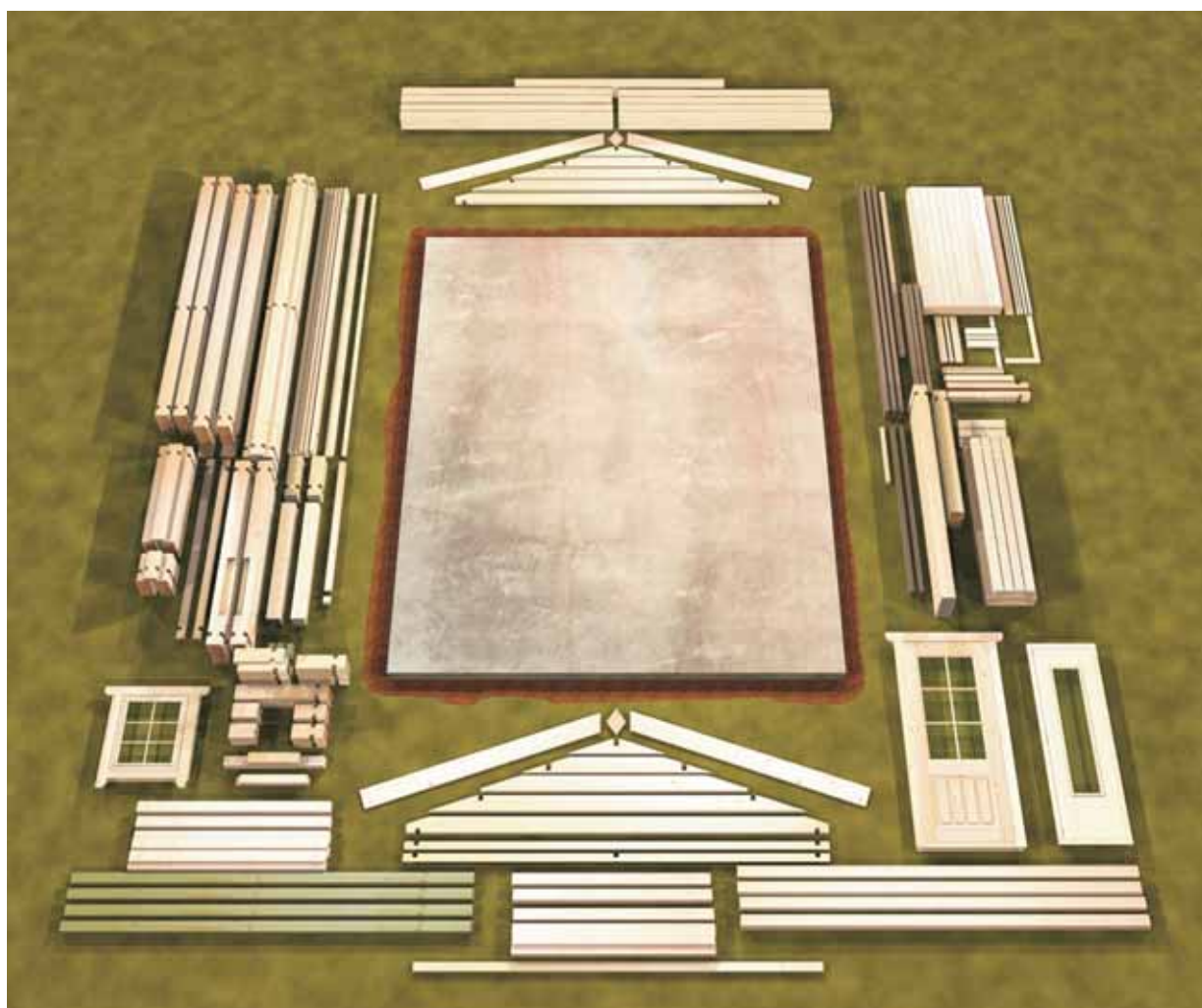
**7.1** Before you begin to build you should check that you have a complete set of components. Check off each piece against the parts list in the Building Plans and Parts List as you remove it from the transit packaging. In the unlikely event that there is a missing component, or that a component has been damaged in transit, please contact the technical helpline, quoting the cabin reference number displayed on the packing label of the transit packaging.

**7.2** As you check off components lay them out on the ground around the site of the cabin. Place each component close to where it will be used. Laying out helps you visualise how the cabin goes together, and it means that components are ready to hand when you need them. You can use the Building Plans and Parts List as a guide to what goes where. Be careful not to lay components too close to the cabin footprint. Give yourself adequate room to work in.



**Please note:**

**Do not leave parts directly on wet ground for extended periods, as excessive moisture can damage or cause the timbers to swell.**



*Image displays example of a cabin layout.*

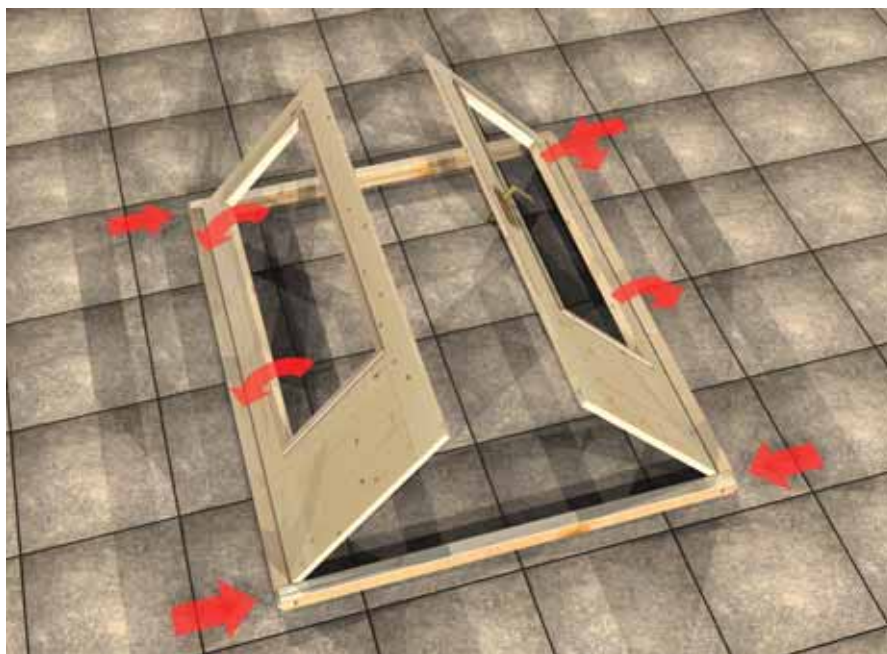
## 8.0 assembling double door frames



**Should your cabin come supplied with double doors, the double door frames do not come pre-assembled. They need to be assembled, glued and screwed. Since strong PVA adhesive needs time to dry, you should assemble and glue your double door frame before you begin building your cabin.**

### 8.1

Lay out the four sides of the door frame on a clean and level surface so that the doors open outwards towards the sky. Loosely arrange them to match the finished frame.

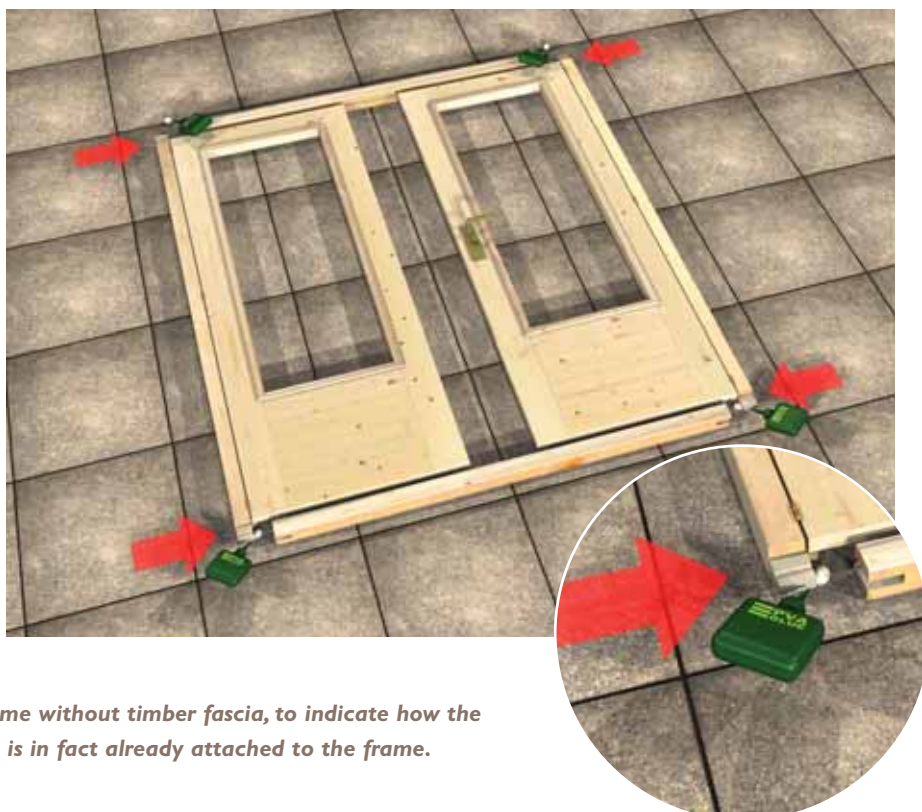


### 8.2

The top and bottom jambs are not quite identical. Place the one with the LOCK RECESS AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM. Make sure that the door cills go behind the doors. Slot the joints together loosely and CHECK THAT YOU CAN STILL OPEN THE DOORS before proceeding.

### 8.3

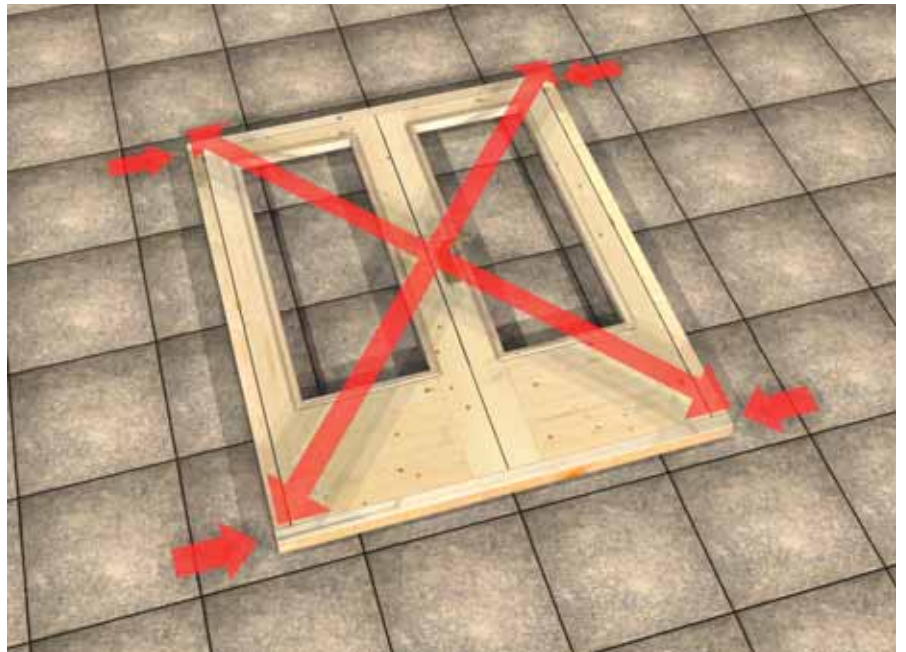
Pull the frame apart again and squeeze PVA adhesive into the joints at the end of each frame piece.



**Please note:**  
*The image above shows the frame without timber fascia, to indicate how the frame joins together. The fascia is in fact already attached to the frame.*

## 8.4

Press the sides together tightly. Check that the frame is square by measuring the cross-diagonals.

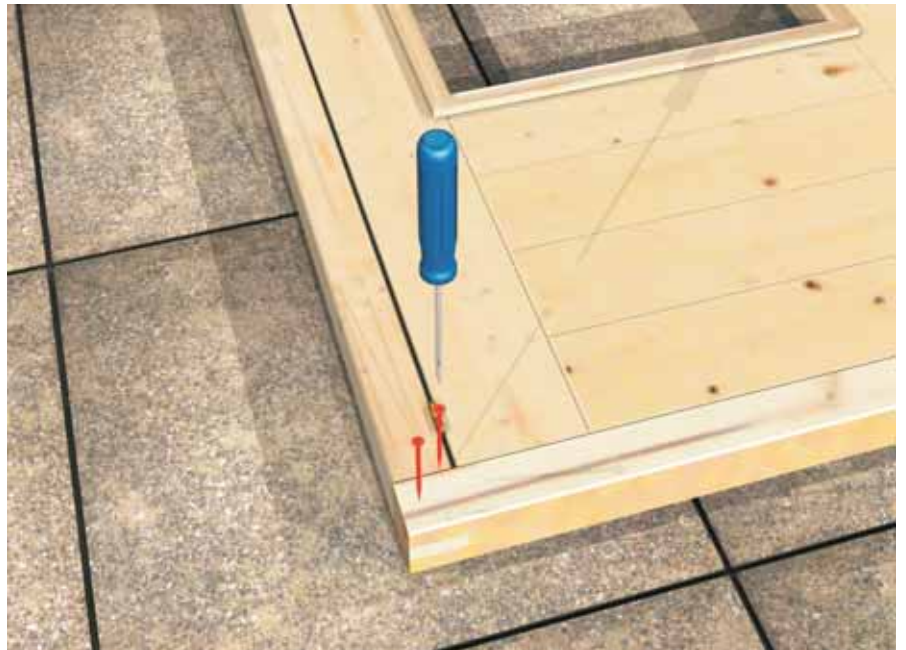


## 8.5

Wipe away all excess glue from the frame. Use a damp cloth and rinse it out thoroughly between wipes to prevent glue smearing over the frame.

## 8.6

When you are happy that the frame is square, secure all corners with the screws provided.



# 9.0 floor beams

Your finished cabin rests on a series of parallel beams known as floor beams. They provide a solid base and raise the cabin off the ground for ventilation. Do not obstruct the circulation of air beneath the cabin by blocking the open-end.

To prevent damp rising into your cabin, each floor beam should be covered by two strips of damp-proof membrane, one above and one below. The polythene transit packaging makes a perfectly good damp-proof course when cut into thin strips. Otherwise you can buy a sheet of commercial damp-proof membrane and cut that into strips.

Floor beams are easy to identify. They are impregnated with a long-lasting preservative that makes them darker.



**\*The layout of floor beams depends on your cabin model; please refer to your Building Plans and Parts List.**

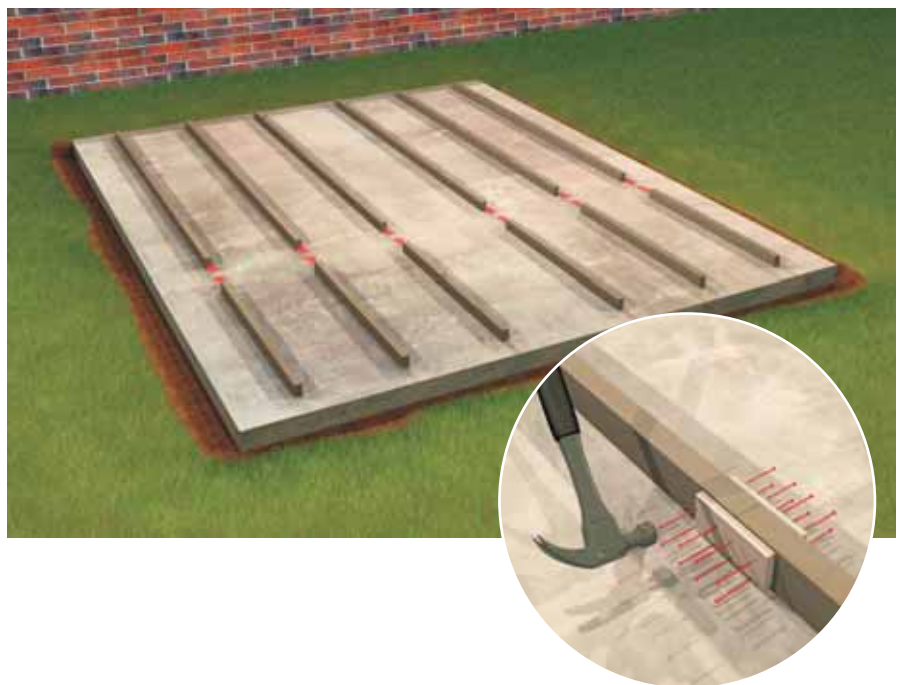
- The floor beams in some cabins run front-to-back within the cabin footprint; in others they run side-to-side.
- Cabins with terraces have an additional set of terrace floor beams that may have to be joined end-to-end with the cabin floor beams.
- Larger cabins require longer floor beams made from two shorter beams joined end-to-end.
- Cabins with internal walls require additional support. The floor beams beneath them are often doubled up.

## 9.1

*Only applies if your cabin floor beams need to be lengthened or if the cabin and terrace floor beams are to be joined (in smaller cabins this does not apply).*



Lay floor beams in pairs (one short beam and one long one), end-to-end on a flat surface. Line them up straight, then fix by nailing an extension piece to either side of the joint.

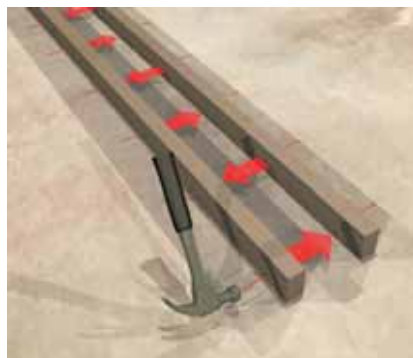


## 9.2

*Only applies if your cabin floor beams need to be doubled up.*



Lay floor beams in pairs, side by side on a flat surface. Align each pair so that their shortest cross-sections are uppermost and their longest cross-sections are face to face.



## 9.3

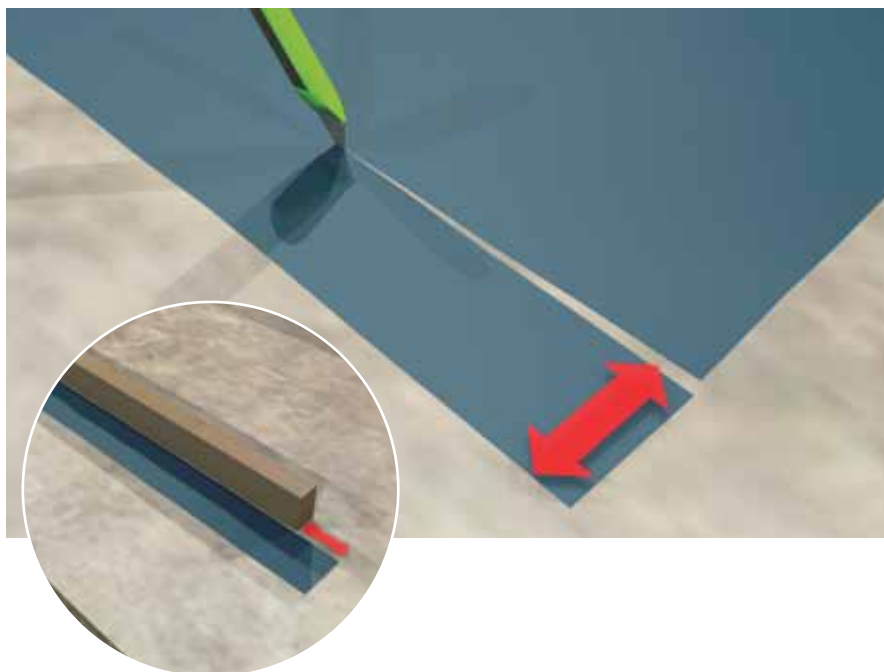
Lay out the floor beams at regular intervals in line with the layout in the Building Plans and Parts List. Where the beams coincide with interior or exterior walls, make sure they lie directly beneath those walls. Ensuring that there is a lip for the internal room floor boards. See section 10.3

## 9.4

Cut the polythene transit packaging (or a sheet of commercial damp-proof membrane) into strips roughly 50mm wide. Cut two strips for each floor beam, making sure that the strip lengths are about 50mm longer than the floor beams.

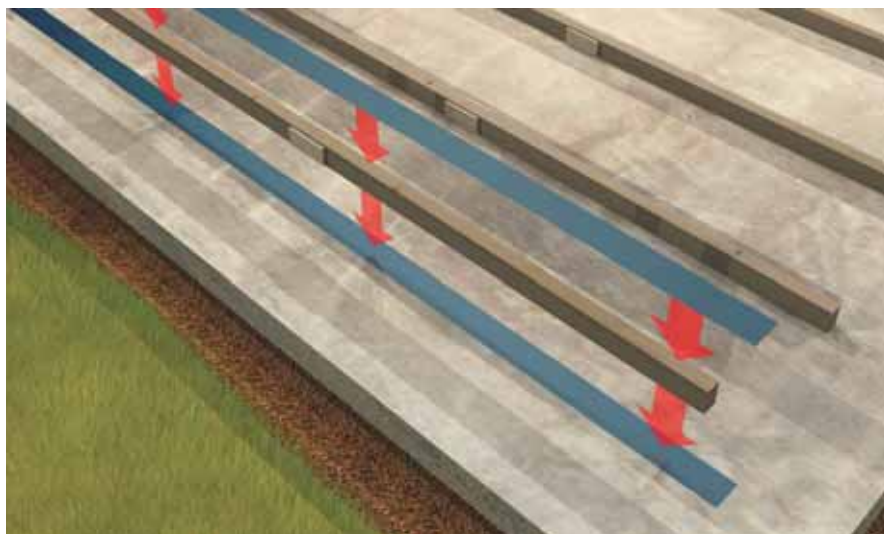
When your cabin is completed you can then go back and trim away any excess polythene/DPC membrane showing.

The Polythene transit packaging or DPC membrane is shown in blue for illustration purposes only.



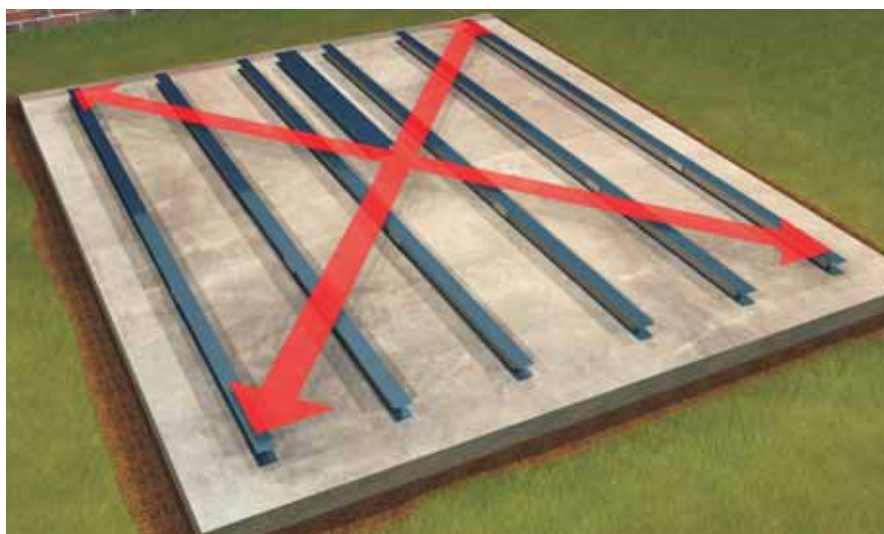
## 9.5

Lay one damp-proof strip beneath each floor beam and one above. Make sure that no part of the floor beam is in direct contact with the underlying foundations.



## 9.6

Check that floor beams are level and that the cross-diagonals are equal. Equal cross-diagonals mean that your cabin is square.



# 10.0 the first layer of wall boards

Wall boards have been machined for a perfect fit. Before you use a wall board, it's worth running a stiff-bristled brush along the grooves and poking the bristles into the joints to remove any stray sawdust. Sawdust-free joints make a better fit. Walls are built by laying wall boards in alternate layers at right angles to each other.



*\*Some cabins feature recessed porches. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List for guidance.*

*\*Some cabins feature internal walls. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List for guidance.*

## 10.1

Start with the half-height wall boards. They form the first and lowest level. Lay them across the ends of, and at right angles to, the floor beams.

*\*If your cabin includes internal walls, also lay the half-height wall boards that form the lowest layer. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List for guidance. Pay particular attention to the location of any notches in the wall boards of multi-roomed cabins. The position of these notches determines where the interlocking walls go.*



## 10.2

Lay the first level of full-height wall boards across the ends of, and at right angles to, the half-height wall boards. The overlapping corner joints slot together:

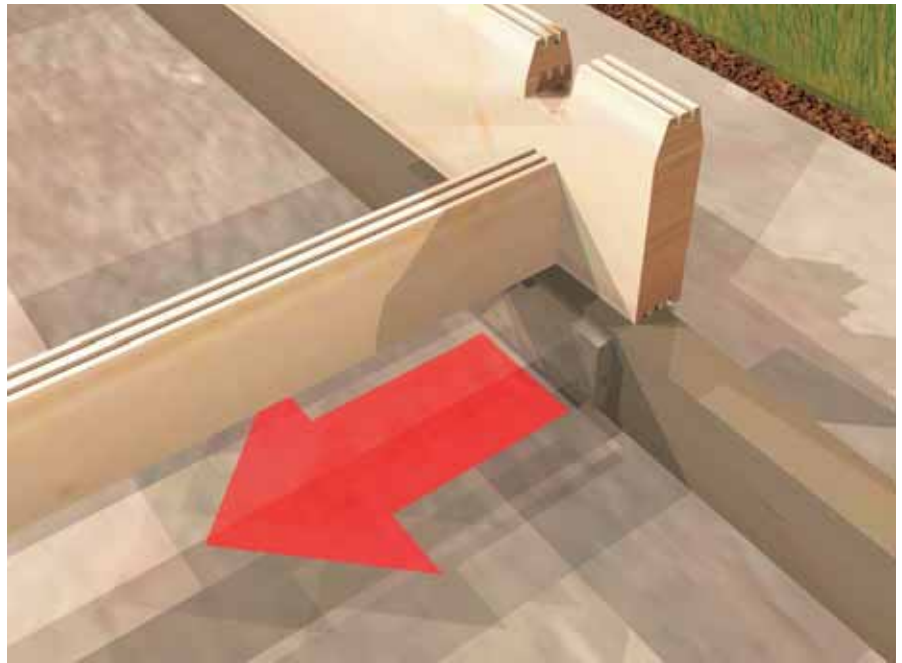
*\*If your full-height boards include cut-outs for doors, make sure you lay them in the appropriate position.*



## 10.3

Now adjust the position of the underlying, outermost floor beams. Slide them inwards slightly so that they minimum 10mm, please ensure the floor beams do not protrude externally past the edge of the wall, clear on the interior face of the wallboard. The adjustment creates a lip on which the cabin floorboards will eventually rest.

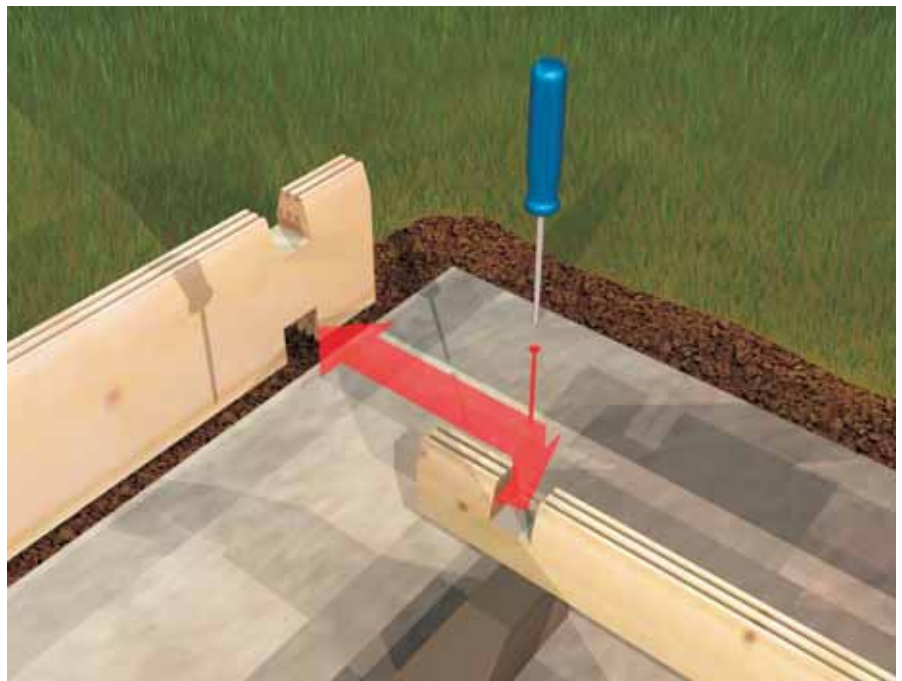
*\*Once again, if your cabin includes internal walls, also lay the full-height wall boards that form the lowest layer. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List for guidance. Pay particular attention to the location of any notches in the wall boards of multi-roomed cabins. The position of these notches determines where the interlocking walls go.*



## 10.4

Screw one end (5mm Dia x 100mm length wood screw) only of one half-height wall board to the underlying outermost floor beam by driving a screw (supplied) through the base of the corner joint. Leave the other three corners loose.

If necessary, make adjustments to the internal floor beams to retain an even spacing between them.



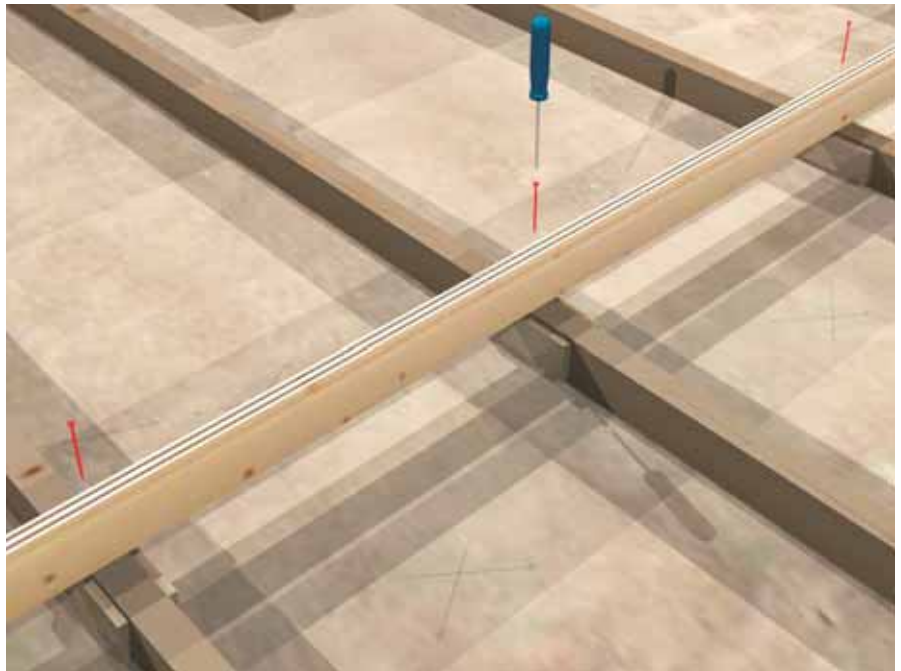
## 10.5

Check that the structure is square by comparing the lengths of the cross-diagonals. If necessary, you can adjust by pivoting the four linked wall boards on the one corner that you have already screwed down.



## 10.6

Screw the half-height wall boards (5mm Dia x 100mm length wood screws) to the rest of the floor beams.



## 10.7

Temporarily lift the full-height wall boards so that you can drive screws through the three remaining corner joints into the outermost floor beams.



# 11.0 building up the walls

Individual wall boards are identified by reference to the Building Plans and Parts List, and by measuring them.

- 11.1** Start laying the second layer of wall boards. Bear in mind that the wall that contains the door will consist of two separate wall boards with a door-width gap between.



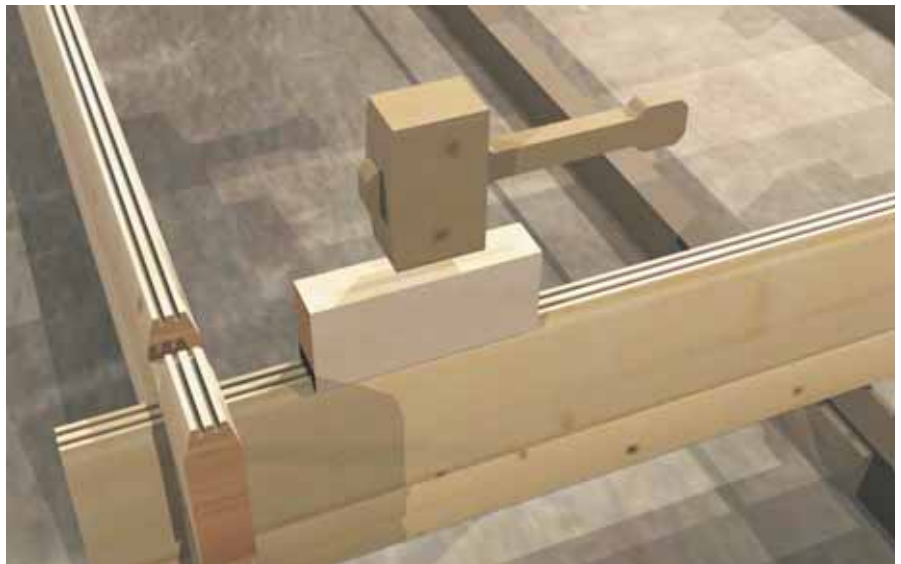
- 11.2** To ensure a snug fit, you should tap each layer down on to the layer below.



***Do not hammer wall boards directly.***

Use the provided assembly piece (a short length of wall board with a matching joint on the lower surface) to take the blows.

In the event that you have not been supplied with an assembly piece any scrap piece of timber (for example a part of the pallet on which the cabin was supplied) will offer adequate protection for the tongues.



***Do not hammer too hard.***

## 11.3

You can now continue building up the walls by slotting together alternate layers of wall boards. Keep the heights of the internal (*\*if you have them*) and external wall boards even all the way up.



## 11.4

After each layer, check that the cabin is square by re-measuring the cross-diagonals. Check also that each layer is level.



## 11.5

Remember to stop at various points to install the doors (see section 12.0), to leave gaps for the windows (see section 13.0), (*\*or open-sided walls, if you have them*) (see section 13.0), and then to install the windows (see section 13.0).

## 12.0 internal and external doors



*\*The instructions that follow refer to doors in the plural. Some cabins only have one door; others feature a variety of internal and external doors. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List to see where the doors go in your cabin. The instructions in this section apply to external doors only.*

*\*Single doors and door frames come as pre-assembled units that slot directly into your cabin walls.*

*\*Double doors and door frames do not come pre-assembled. If you have not yet put your double door frame together, refer to section 8.0 for assembly details. Installing the assembled unit into your cabin is one job that could benefit from a second pair of hands.*

*\*Some doors and windows are supplied with the handles pre attached.*

External doors open outwards. Make sure you install them the right way round.

**12.1** Install door frames after you have laid **THREE** layers of short wall boards in the relevant walls of your cabin.

**12.2** The door frames come as complete units with wide grooves cut into the architraves. Slide the frames vertically into the appropriate gaps so that the ends of the wall boards fit the grooves. Tap the door frames lightly from above to ensure they go all the way to the bottom, but be careful not to exert too much pressure or to twist or distort the frames. Check that the doors open outwards.



**12.3** Check that the door frames are square and vertical before you continue to build up the cabin walls. Misaligned doors will not open properly.

**12.4** Attach handles to the doors.



# 13.0 windows and \*open sided walls



*\*The instructions that follow refer to windows in the plural. Some cabins only have one window; others feature a variety of windows. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List to see where the windows go in your cabin. Note how many layers of boards to lay in each relevant wall before you start to create window-sized gaps.*

*\*Some cabins feature open-sided gaps instead of windows. The method of construction is the same, except that the gaps are larger and remain unfilled. Refer to the Building Plans and Parts List to see where the open-sided gaps go in your cabin.*

*\* Some windows come pre-assembled with architraves on all four sides, and ready-glazed with safety glass.*

**13.1** It's easy to tell which way round your windows should go: the outer face has a wider cross-section and the top architrave is longer than the one at the bottom.

**13.2** When you have laid the number of boards indicated on your Building Plans and Parts List, start laying shorter-length boards in the walls that contain windows until you have a window-sized gap two or three layers deep.



## 13.3

Windows come as finished units with wide grooves similar to those on the door frames. Slide them vertically into the gaps between the wall boards. Tap lightly from above to ensure they go all the way down. Be careful not to twist or distort the windows.



## 13.4

Check that the windows open outwards and that the frames are square and vertical. Misaligned windows will not open properly.



# 14.0 building up the eaves and gables



## IMPORTANT

*If your log cabin has an overhanging canopy as shown here then you cannot complete the roof of your cabin at this stage. This type of cabin requires you to install the terrace and pillar supports first before continuing with building your roof.*

*Please refer to your Cabin Parts and Plans List for guidance.*



*\*If your cabin features an internal wall, the sequence is a little more complicated. Refer to your Building Plans and Parts List for guidance.*

### 14.1

Continue laying wall boards according to the layout of the Building Plans and Parts List.

### 14.2

*The last few layers of side wall boards in some cabins are longer. The lengths increase in steps to support an overhanging canopy. Refer to your Building Plans and Parts List for guidance.*



## 14.3

Lay angled gable boards in sequence beginning with the longest. Take care with the alignment of the angled gable boards. The sloping roof line should be symmetrical and even at both gable ends.



## 14.4

Use nails at either end to fix each layer of gable boards to the layer below. Hammer nails in at an angle through the sloping ends of the gable boards.



## 15.0 ridge and roof beams

The ridge of your cabin roof is supported by a ridge beam; the slopes of the roof are supported on parallel roof beams.

**15.1** Building up the gable ends reveals a succession of slots for the roof beams. As each slot appears, tap in a roof beam. Make sure that the angled side of each roof beam lies flush with the slope of the gable. Nail through into the gable boards to secure.

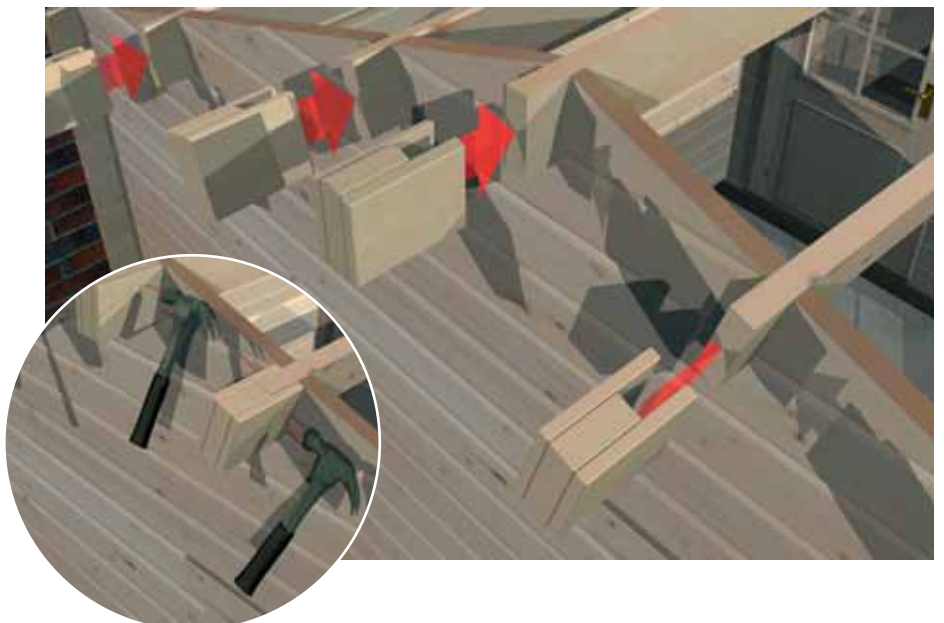


**15.2** Tap the ridge beam into place at the apex of the gable ends. Secure by nailing into the uppermost gable board.



**15.3** Slide ridge and roof beam extension pieces over the exposed ends of the beams at both ends of the cabin. Make sure that the upper surfaces of the beams and the extension pieces are flush, then secure by nailing from either side.

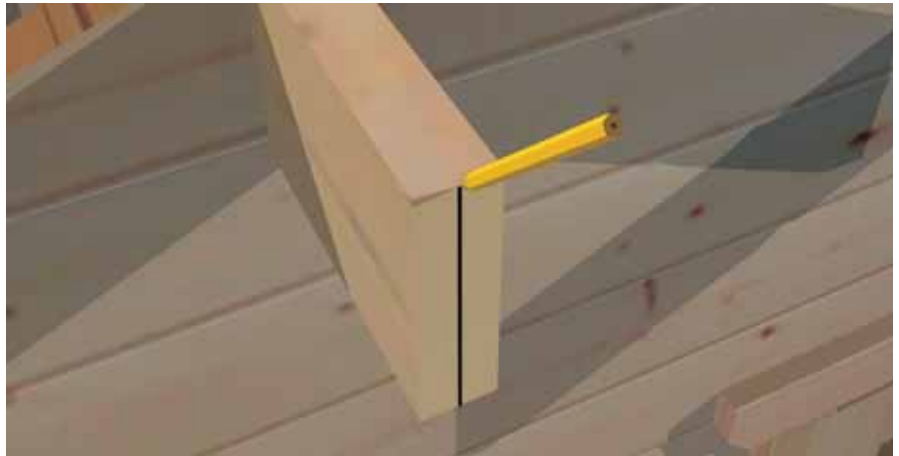
Fix the wall board extension pieces to the ends of the topmost wall boards in the same way.



## 16.0 roof boards

When laying the roof boards, you will need to temporarily tack an eaves fascia board to the ridge beam as a guide batten, and use it to make sure that all roof boards terminate in a flush ridge line.

**16.1** Mark the centre line on the front and rear faces of the ridge beam.



**16.2** Tack an eaves fascia board temporarily with nails to the ridge beam so that one edge is flush with the marked centre line.



**Do not hammer in all the way. You will have to remove it later on.**



**When constructing the cabin during the summer periods, we advise to leave small gaps between the roof boards to allow expansion for the boards during the winter months. Where as building during the winter months we would advise knocking the boards together, to reduce any gap appearing during the hot and dry periods.**

**16.3** Begin nailing roof boards on one side of the roof, starting from the front. The leading edge of the first roof board should be set 5mm from the ends of the ridge and roof beams. The uppermost end of the roof board should be flush with the temporary ridge-beam guide batten. Nail each roof board to the ridge beam (V-joint facing downwards) and every roof beam, driving 2 nails per board - per joint in at right angles to the roof slope.



## 16.4

Work through, board-by-board, to the rear gable. Make sure that the eaves line created by the lower edges of the roof boards is as straight as possible.



## 16.5

The last roof board may project beyond the rear gable. Tack it down lightly and mark on the underside where it meets the ends of the ridge and roof beams.



## 16.6

Remove the final roof board and saw it lengthways 5mm inside the marked line. Lay it back on the roof and nail down.



## 16.7

Remove the temporary guide batten from the ridge beam, then repeat stages 16.3 to 16.6 for the other side of the roof.

# 17.0 eaves fascia boards



## 17.1

Check that the eaves line created by the roof boards is reasonably straight. If necessary, use a saw to trim it flush.



## 17.2

Attach the eaves fascia boards perpendicular to the roof boards, and flush with their upper surface. You need one piece for each side of the cabin. Fix by nailing into the ends of the roof boards with 50mm nails.



# 18.0 roofing shingles

Roofing shingles are rectangular. The lower half of the face side is a decorative green with slits that divide it into three flaps; the upper half is black and coated with bitumen. With the exception of the first row, all shingles are laid with the green flaps at the bottom. Ridge shingles are created by cutting individual roof shingles into thirds. Lay roof shingles when the temperature is above 5°C. We recommend that you use a bitumen shingle adhesive (NOT SUPPLIED) on the underneath of the tiles. This would be an extra measure to ensure longevity of the shingle life.

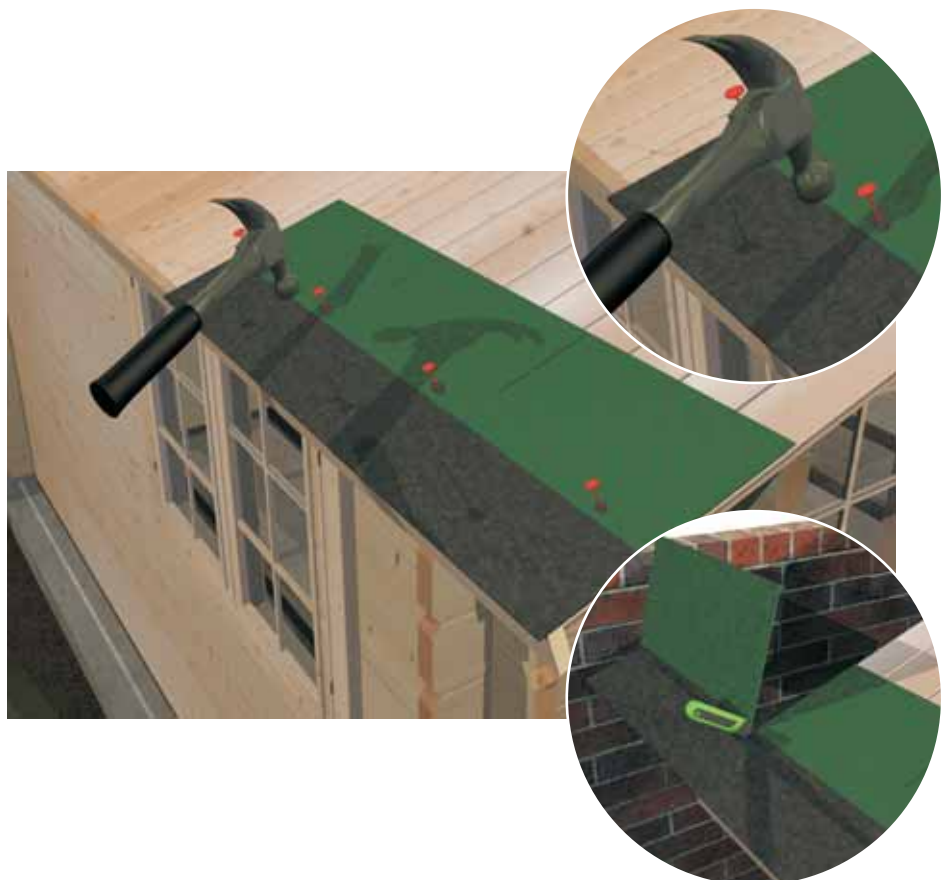
Proceed with caution when working on the roof: for your own safety, and to avoid damaging the shingles. The roof is not designed to take the weight of a person. Always use a ladder which is vertical, secure, and on level ground. Be careful not to let sharp tools damage the roofing materials or to let tools or materials fall on to people below.

**18.1** Remove all debris and stray sawdust from the roof. Drive home any protruding nail heads to leave a flat surface.

**18.2** Lay the first row of shingles with the green/black face uppermost and the green flaps at the top. Place the first shingle so that one side aligns with the right-hand edge of the roof and the black bitumen overhangs the eaves fascia board. Adjust till the edge of the black bitumen extends about 10mm out from the edge of the eaves fascia board. The 10mm overhang is known as the 'water drop edge'.



**18.3** Secure the shingle with four clout nails driven through the bitumen patches on the shingle into the roof boards. Complete the row by laying more shingles edge-to-edge until the entire length of the eaves is covered. Trim the excess from the left-hand end of the roof. Retain cut pieces for later use.

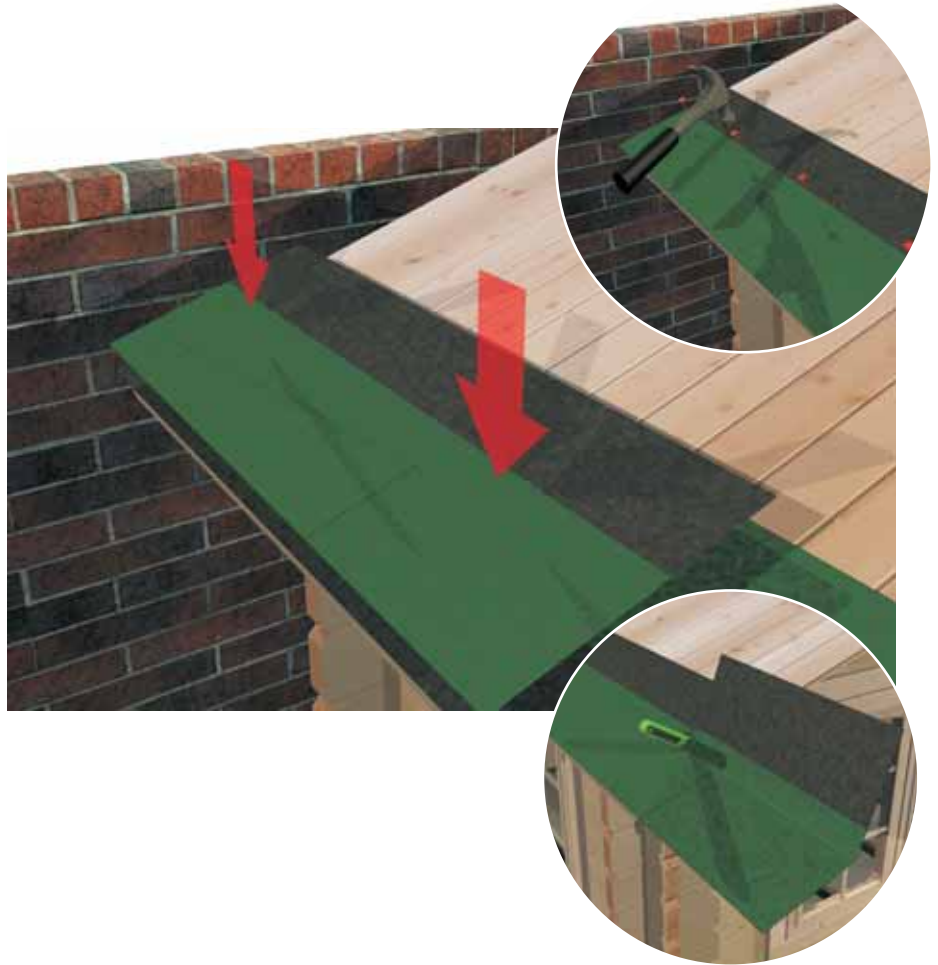


## 18.4

Begin the second row from the left-hand end. Lay this row (and all subsequent rows) with the green/black face uppermost and the green flaps at the bottom.

Align the second row of shingles so that the lower edge of the green flaps are just proud of the roof edge. Secure with four clout nails driven through the lower green part. Locate these nails just below the line that separates black bitumen from decorative green. Properly located nails will be obscured by subsequent layers of shingles.

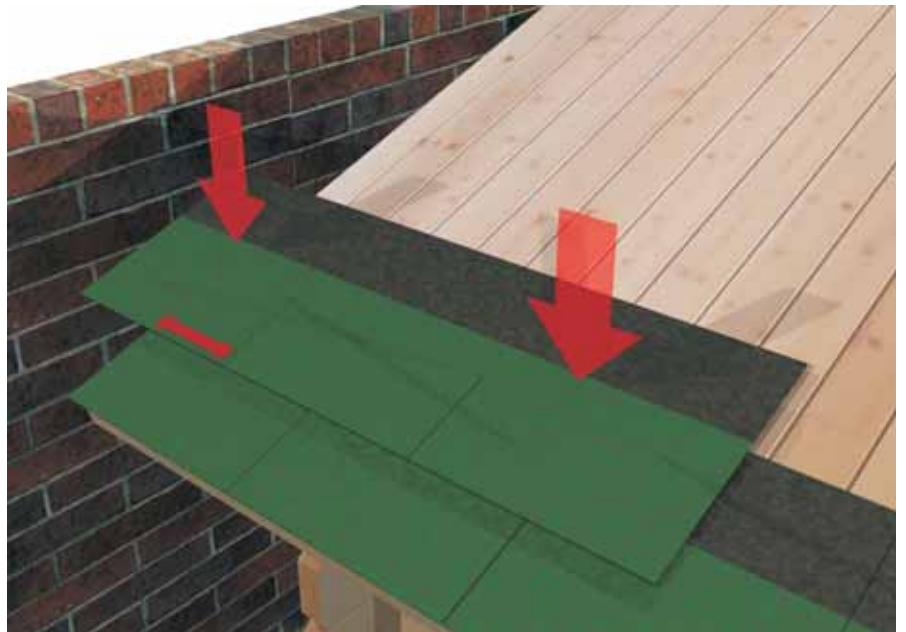
Trim the last shingle to fit.  
Retain cut pieces for later use.



## 18.5

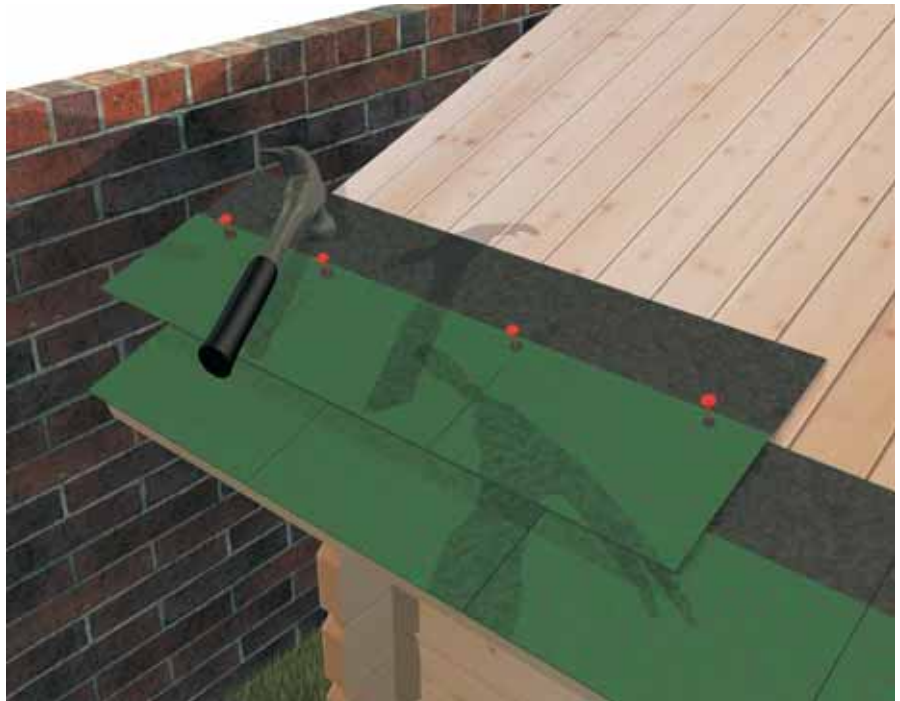
Lay the first shingle in row three so that the mid-point of the left-hand flap aligns with the edge of the roof. Adjust its height until the tips of the decorative flaps align with the tops of the slits between the flaps in the row below.

Nail down the shingle as directed at step 18.4.



## 18.6

From now on each row has to be parallel with the row below to create an even pattern. Start every row from the left-hand end of the roof. In each case the first shingle in the row must be offset to the left by half a flap, ie by one sixth of its total length. That means that the centres of the flaps of the current row will align with the gaps between the flaps in the row below.



## 18.7

Continue laying shingle sheets from left to right, edge-to-edge, to complete a full row. Trim the excess from both ends and retain cut pieces for later use.



## 18.8

Continue laying rows of shingles from left to right, giving each row an extra half-flap offset to the left. Where possible, use the trimmed pieces you have already saved as the first or last shingles in the row.

When you reach the final row, the upper edge of the shingles will extend beyond the roof ridge. Bend the excess over the ridge and nail it down.

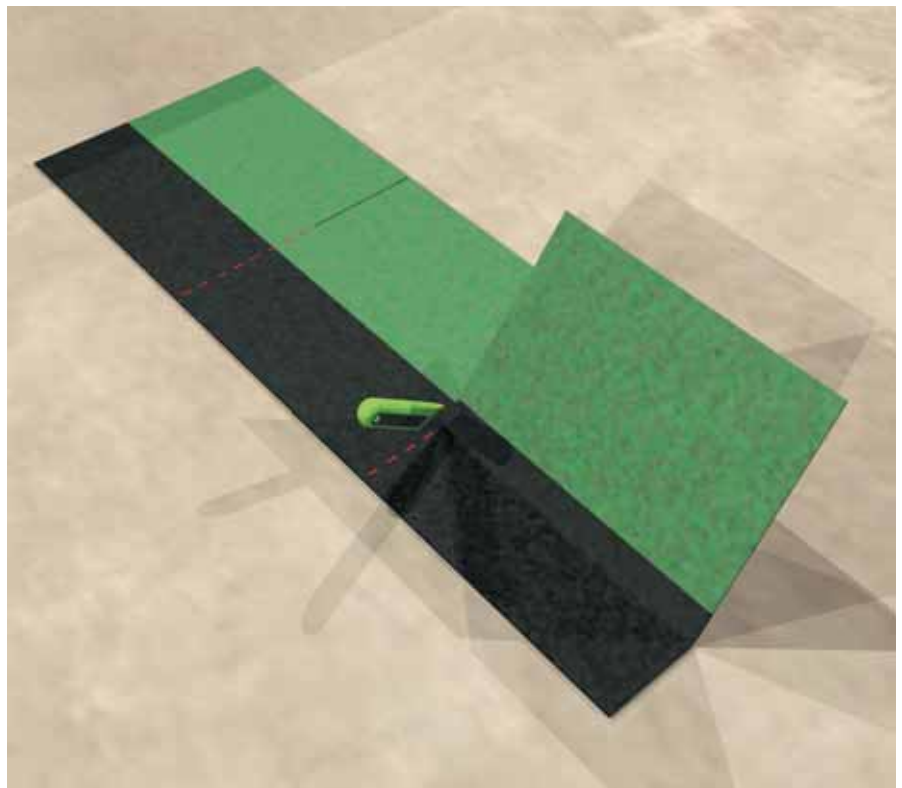
Repeat steps 18.2 to 18.8 for the other roof slope.



## 18.9

Cut several roof shingles into thirds to create ridge shingles. Cut them by extending the slits between the flaps right through the bitumen layer. You can do the same with any trimmed pieces left over from lower rows.

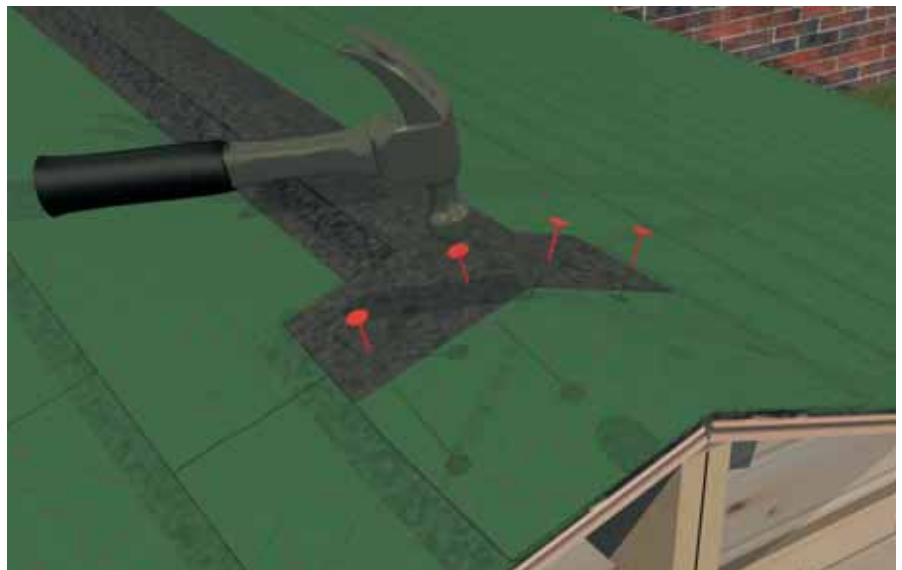
To complete each ridge shingle, you should taper the half containing the black bitumen. Start the taper at the point where the original slit ended. Finish it at the furthest edge of the black bitumen. Take the taper in about 10mm at either side of the bitumen.



**18.10** Lay ridge shingles carefully over the ridge without creasing. Begin from the front of the cabin by laying a ridge shingle evenly across the roof ridge so that the tip of the green edge is flush with the leading edge of the roof boards. Secure by driving two clout nails through the black bitumen on either side of the roof ridge.



**18.11** Lay the second and subsequent ridge shingles so that the green half completely covers the bitumen of the preceding shingle. In each case, drive clout nails through the black bitumen to secure.



**18.12** You will have laid the last ridge shingle when there is no black bitumen showing after you have trimmed it flush with the rear gable. Nail it to secure.



## 19.0 gable fascia boards and cover boards

**19.1** Pencil in the vertical centre line on the front end of the ridge beam.



**19.2** Align gable fascia boards so that the cross-cut angled ends are flush with the vertical pencil mark on the ridge beam and the upper edges of the boards are flush with the upper surface of the shingles. Attach the fascia boards by nailing to the ends of the ridge and roof beams using the provided nails.

Repeat steps 19.1 and 19.2 at the other gable end.



## 19.3

Place gable fascia cover boards if supplied with your cabin over the upper edge of the gable fascia. Lay them perpendicular to the gable fascia so that their front edge is flush with the front face of the fascia. Fix them by nailing through to the gable fascia.

Repeat for the other gable end.



## 19.4

Nail a gable diamond at each end of your cabin so that it covers the joint between the two gable fascia boards.



## 20.0 storm battens



Storm battens are fixed to the inside of your cabin to reduce the movement between logs and to provide additional support. Your cabin is reinforced at the corners by vertical wooden battens. Storm battens are fixed by coach bolts to the corners of the front and rear walls.

Please note: we have supplied enough storm battens for your cabin, however you will have to cut them down to the appropriate size.

### 20.1

Fix storm battens to the inner face of the rear wall. The upper ends bolt to the lowest board in the gable triangle, while the lower ends bolt to the lowest full wall board that they can reach. Place storm battens so that the wide face is flat against the rear wall and the short face is approximately 5" from the side wall.

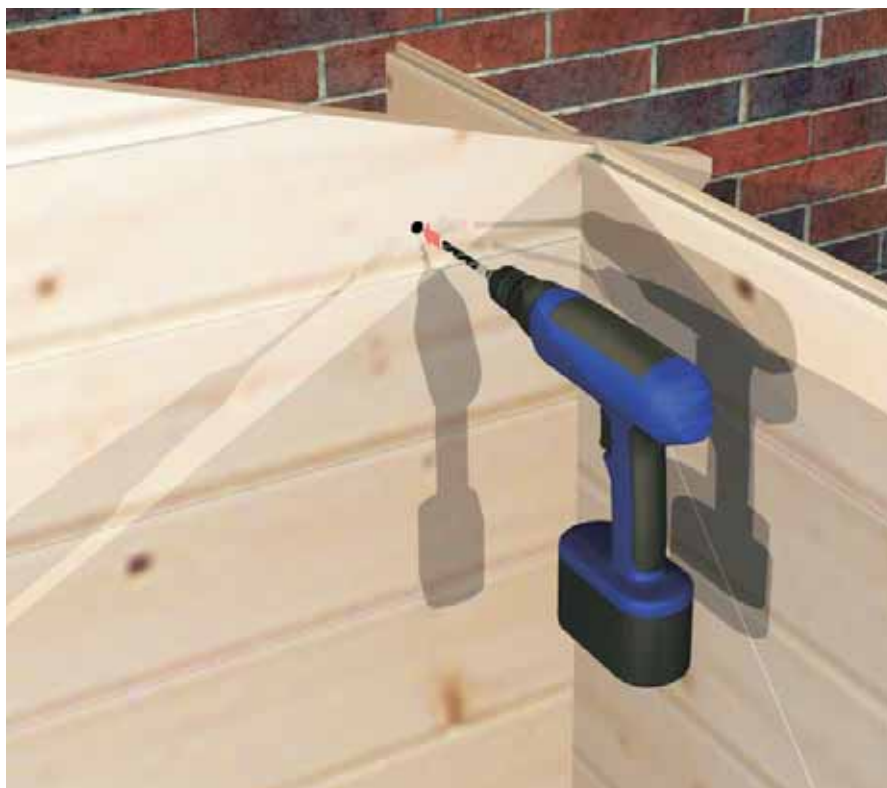


**Please note: it is critical that the storm battens are positioned correctly within your cabin.**

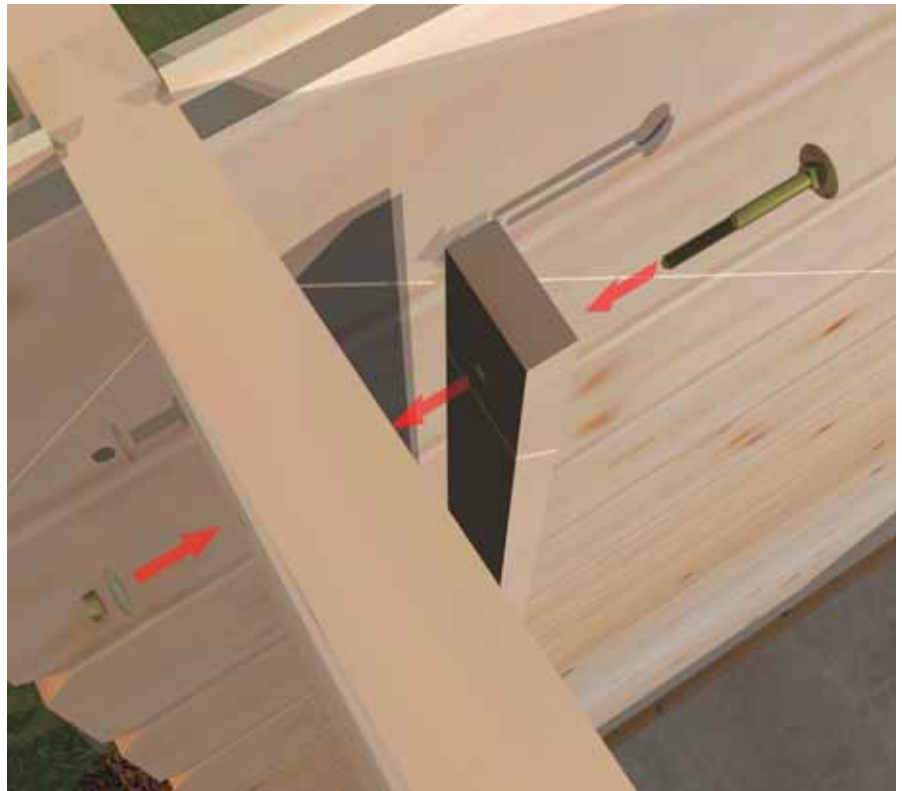


### 20.2

Mark the positions on the top and bottom boards where the coach bolts should go. Drill 8mm holes right through the cabin wall boards.



**20.3** Use the supplied coach bolts to fix storm battens to wall boards. Bolt the top ends tightly and the lower ends, loosely.



**20.4** Repeat for the two front-wall internal corners. Refer to section 20.1

**20.5** Let the cabin settle for a week or two, then tighten the lower coach bolts of the storm battens to compensate for any movement in the wall boards. This should be checked periodically.

# 21.0 floorboards



Lay the floorboards last. That way you minimise the chance of getting them dirty when working on other tasks.

Depending on your cabin model the floor boards may run from back to front or side to side. Refer to the floor plan for the orientation of your floorboards.

If your cabin is in excess of 5 metres in length the floorboards may be supplied in two different lengths. In this case it is advisable to stagger the joins of the flooring.

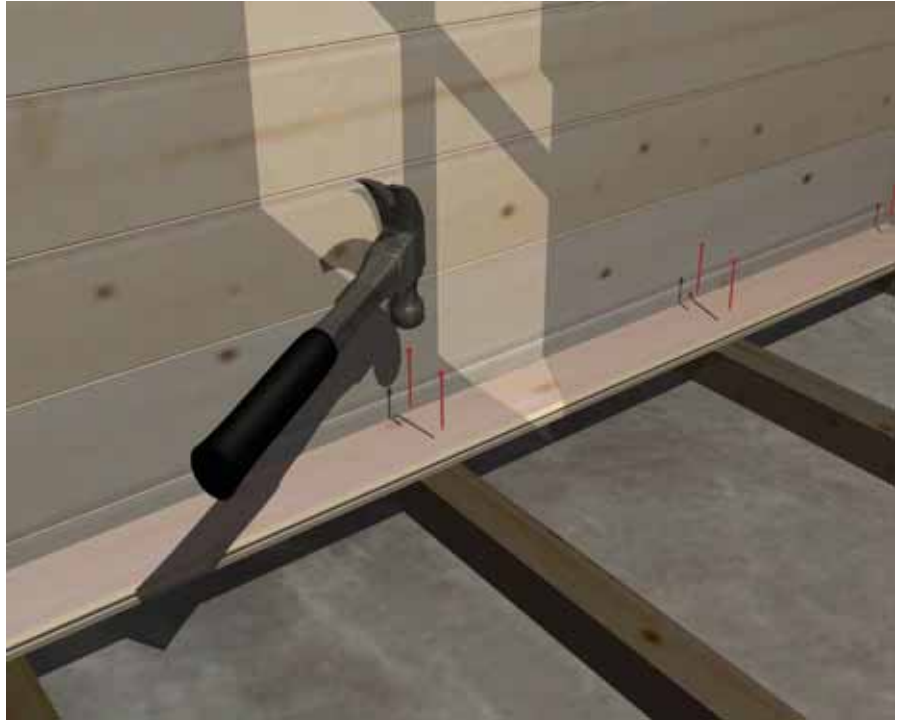
## 21.1

Begin nailing floorboards from the side walls (V-Joint on the underside of the floor) or from the front working towards the back. Leave a 10mm gap from the cabin wall with the first floorboard and again when laying the last floorboard to allow for expansion. These 10mm gaps will be concealed eventually by skirting board.



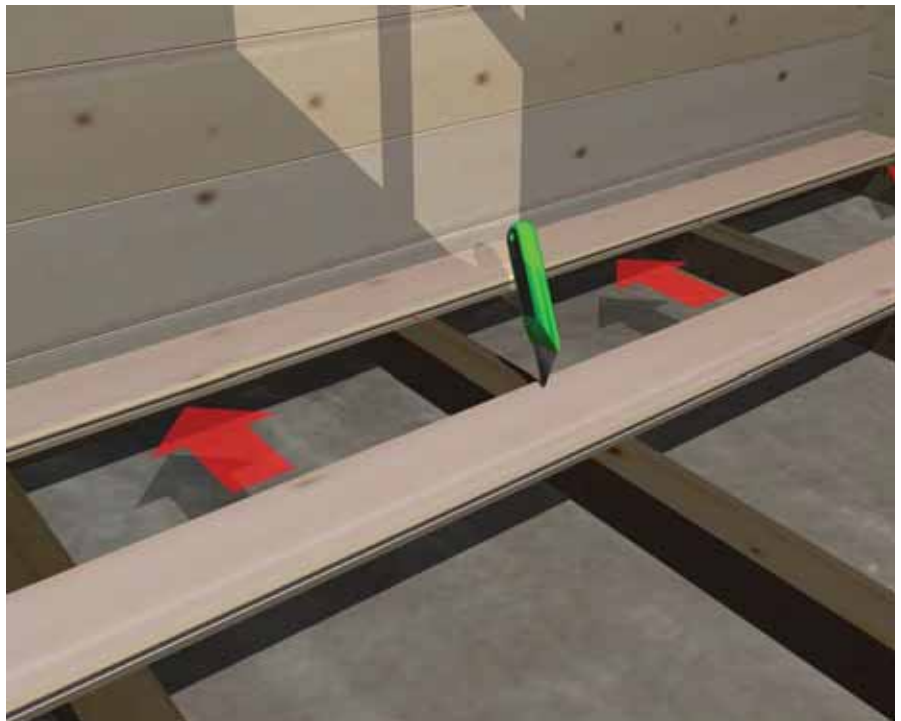
## 21.2

We recommend that you nail straight through the floorboards from above - it's quick and easy to do. It is recommended that 2 nails per board - per joist are used.



## 21.3

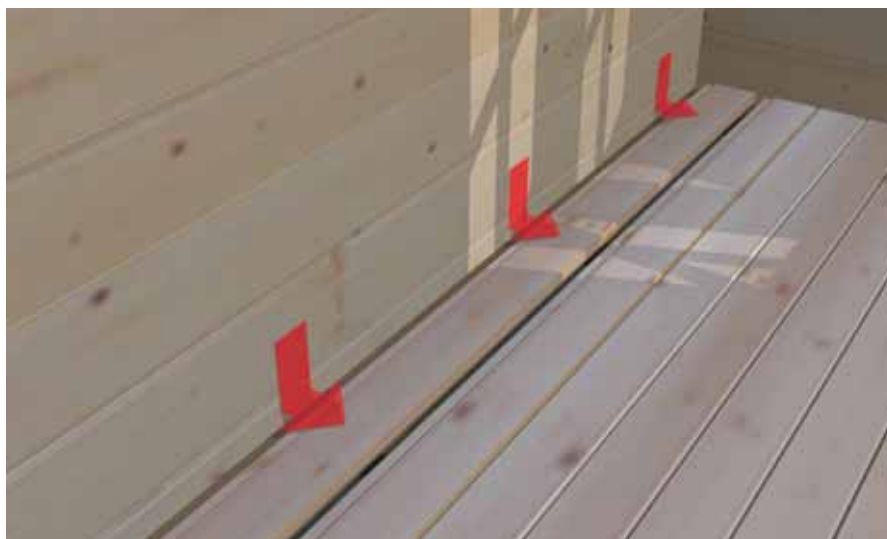
Make sure that the tongue-and-groove floorboard joints fit tightly. A knife or a chisel may help to pare away wood that prevents a good fit.



## 21.4

The last floorboard in each room is unlikely to fit exactly; you'll have to trim it to size.

Lay the penultimate floorboard in place; push the tongue-and-groove joints home but don't nail the board down. Place the final board on top of the penultimate board so that its tongue lies flush against the wall. Using the grooved edge of the final board as a guide, draw a pencil line on the upper surface of the penultimate board.

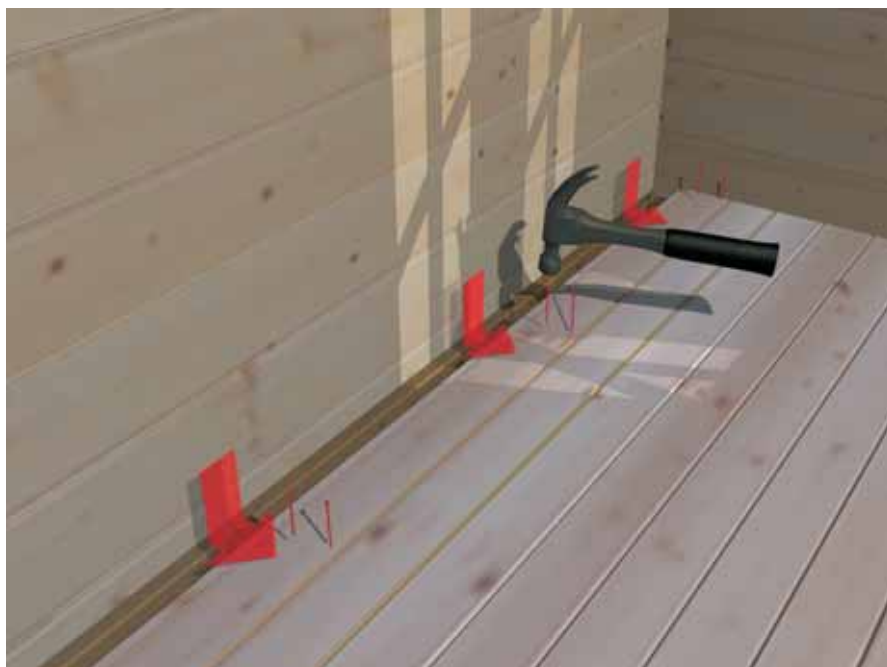


**21.5** Cut the last floorboard lengthways along the line you have marked. Ease it into position. Again use a knife or chisel if it won't quite fit.

Remember to leave a 10mm gap for expansion.



**21.6** Lay the remaining full-width board where the penultimate board used to be. Tap the joints home snugly and nail the board (2 nails per board - per joist) in place.

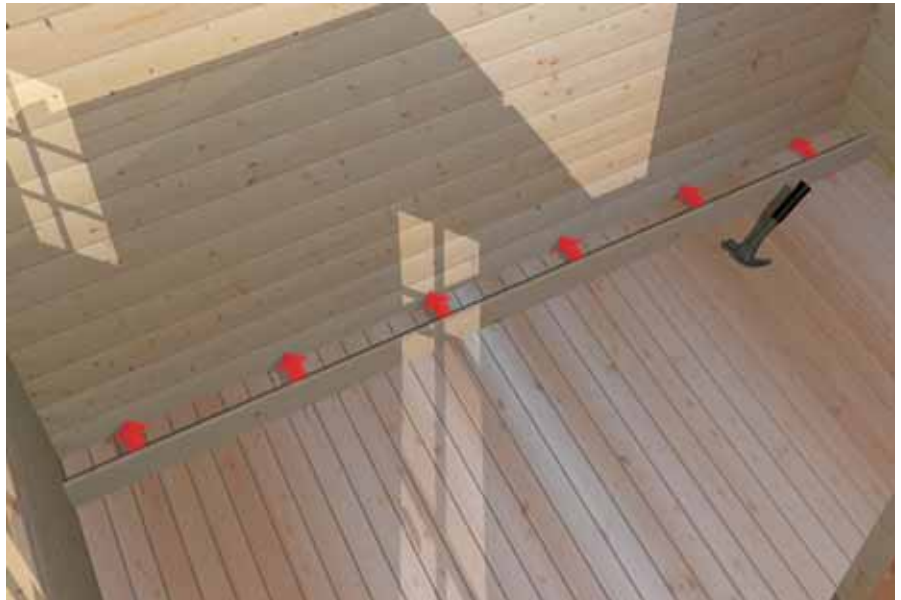


**21.7** Lay the trimmed board last. Butt the tongue-and-groove joints together so that the cut edge faces the wall. Press the joints home and nail the board in place. This should leave a narrow expansion gap between the cut face and the wall.

**21.8** If you are going to treat the floorboards in some way, cover them with cardboard or paper until the time comes to apply the treatment. Untreated floorboards get dirty easily.

## 22.0 skirting boards

- 22.1** Skirting comes and is supplied at the correct lengths required, fix using the nails supplied.



- 22.2** Once the floorboards have been nailed down, you can nail skirtings directly to the wall boards.



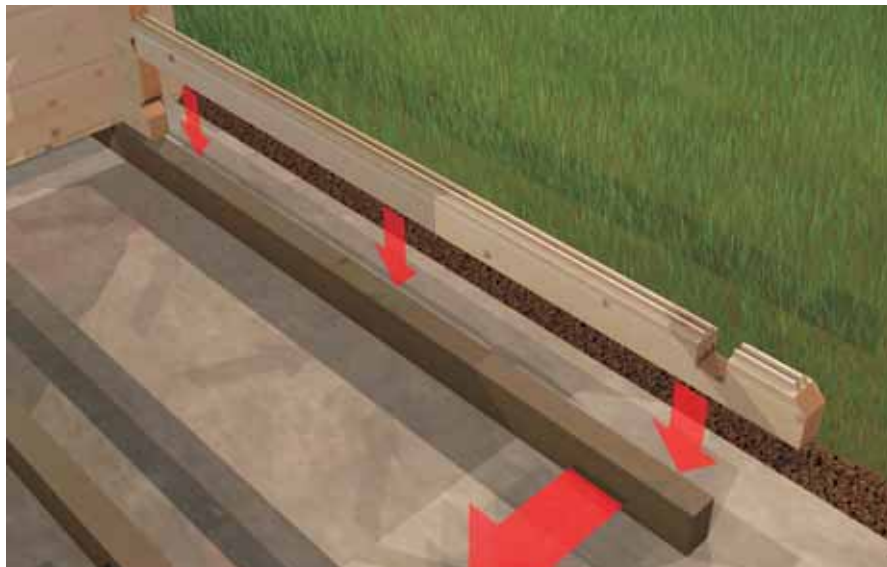
# 23.0 terrace



Please note: not all cabins come with a terrace, these are model-specific. Not all terraces are the same! refer to your model specific guide.

## 23.1

Take the half-height terrace-rail boards that form the lowest level of the terrace side rails and lay them on top of the outermost terrace floor beams. Place them so that the outermost faces of the boards align with the outermost faces of the cabin walls. If necessary, adjust so that the underlying floor beams project 10-15mm from the innermost faces of the terrace-rail boards. The projection produces a lip which will support the terrace deckboards.



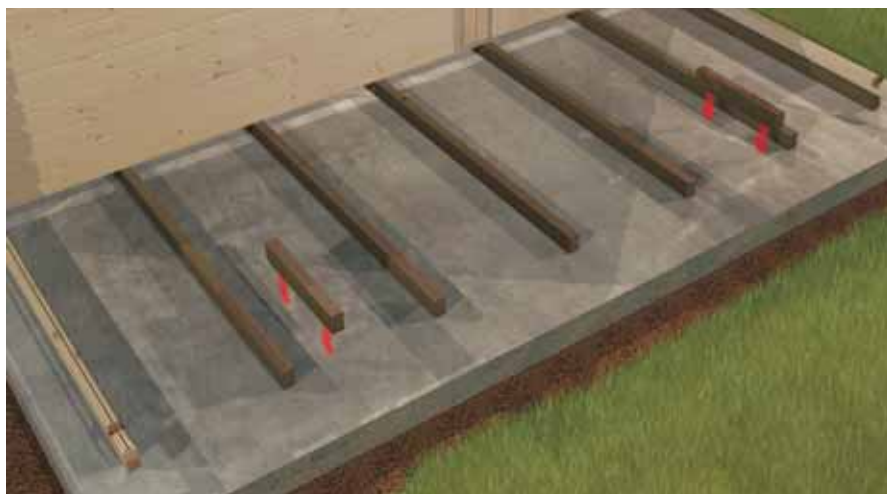
## 23.2

OPTIONAL: For extra stability you can screw the half-height wall logs to the underlying terrace floor beams (screws not supplied).



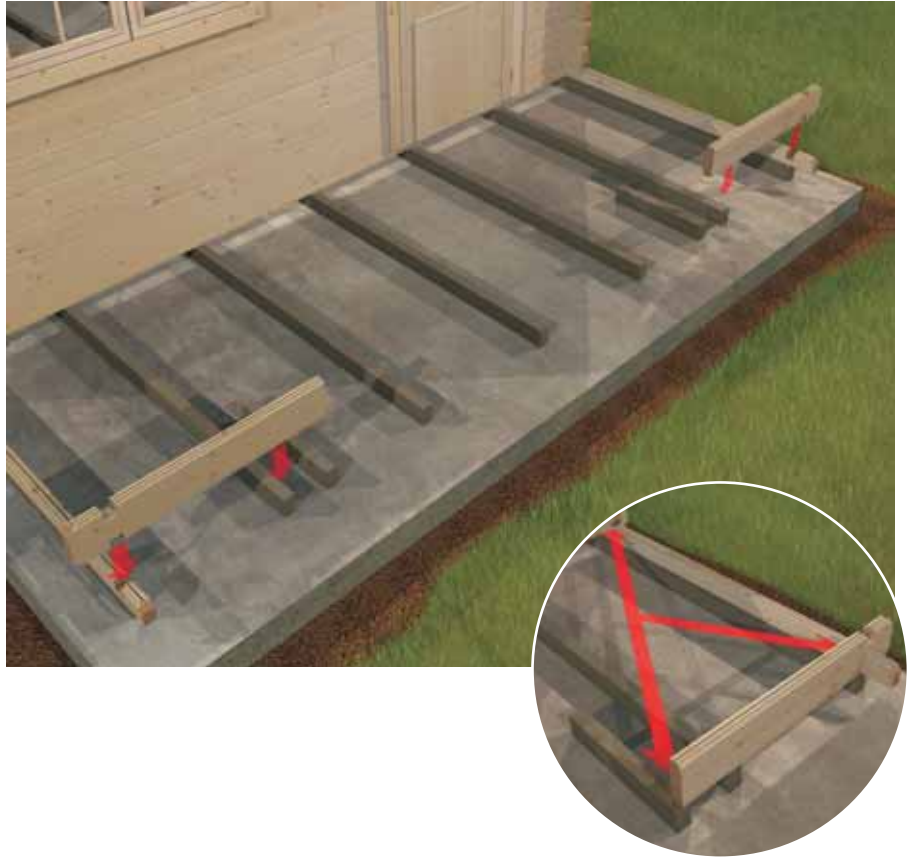
## 23.3

Lay the two remaining short beams onto the base. These are to support the end-of-terrace rail boards and deck boards.



## 23.4

Lay full-height terrace front-rail boards at right angles to the half-height boards so that their joints interlock. Check that the rails are square before screwing them down through the corner joints.



## 23.5

Build up the remaining layers of terrace-rail boards.



Please refer to your model-specific manual for information.



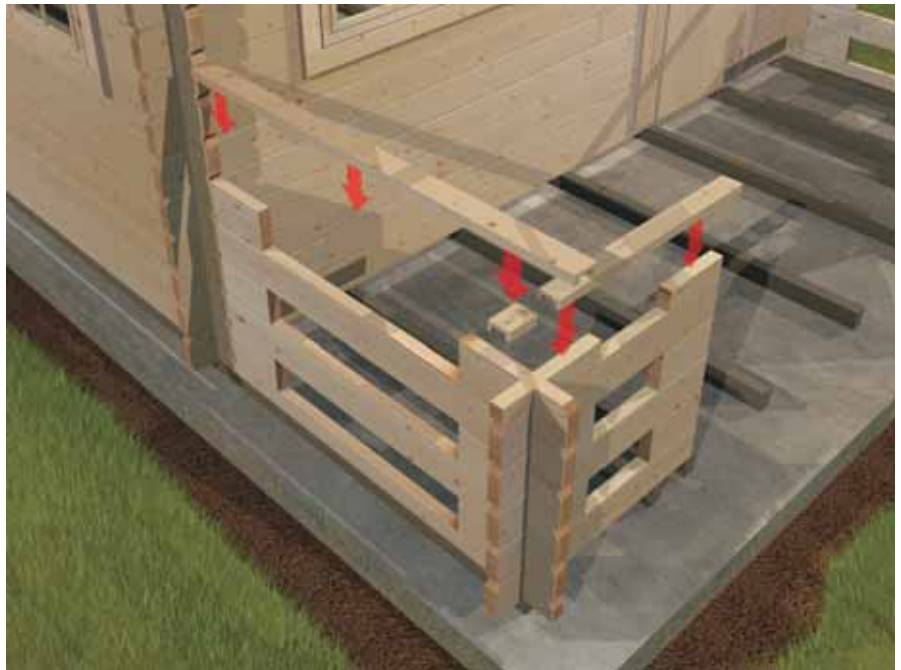


Styles of terrace capping vary between different cabins, please use the appropriate method shown in sections 23.6 - 23.12 or 23.13.

## 23.6

The final layer of full-height and half-height terrace-rail boards have a flat upper face that supports the terrace handrails.

The actual handrails feature a U-shaped cross-section that wraps around the upper edge of the topmost terrace-rail boards. The handrails come in three lengths, the longest of which requires a notch cut in it to accommodate the intersection between the front and side terrace rails.



## 23.7



Lay the side handrail on its side on top of the terrace side rail, ie with the U-shaped opening facing horizontally. Press one end flush against the cabin wall, then use a pencil to mark where the edges of the terrace front rail meet the lower edge of the side handrail.

Turn the handrail over (a 180° turn) and repeat the procedure to mark where its opposite face meets the terrace front rail.



**23.8** Use a mitre square to draw perpendicular lines running from each of the four points you have marked towards the top section of the handrail. The lines should reach no further than the lower face of the top section.



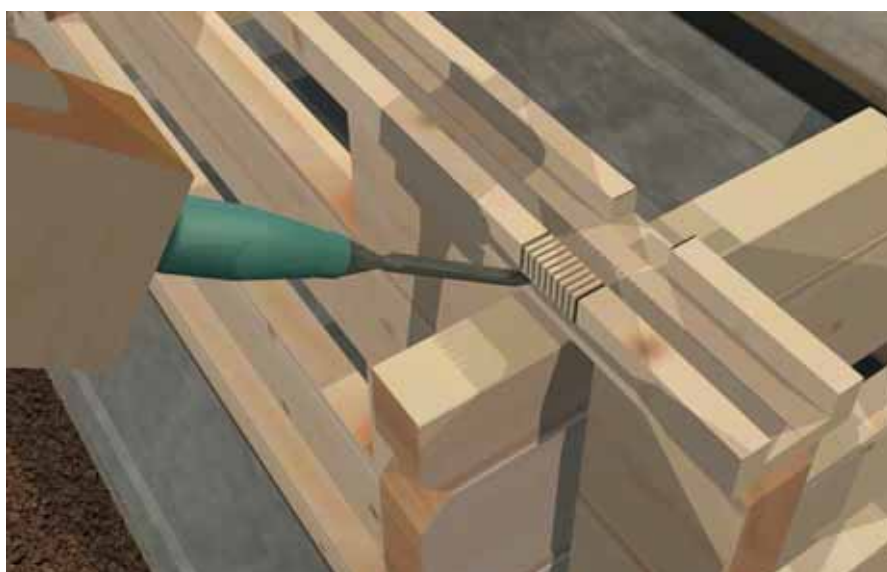
**23.9** Saw through the sides of the handrail along each of your four lines. Keep your saw horizontal so that you can stop when the teeth reach the lower face of the middle section.



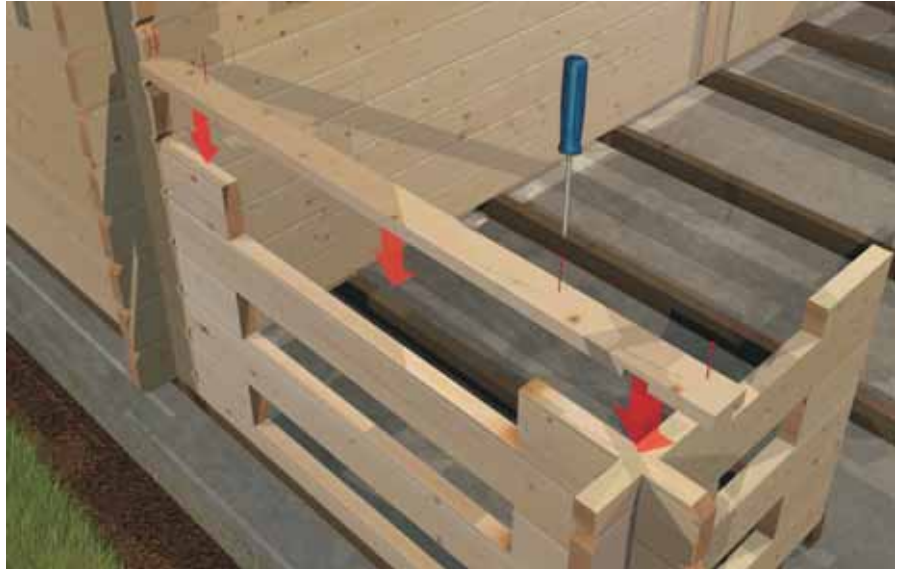
**Do not saw into the middle section.**



**23.10** Use a mallet and chisel to chop out the base of the two sections you have cut. Aim for a neat horizontal cut that finishes flush with the lower face of the top section. It may help if you use a fretsaw to cut out the bulk of the timber before chiselling a neat finish.

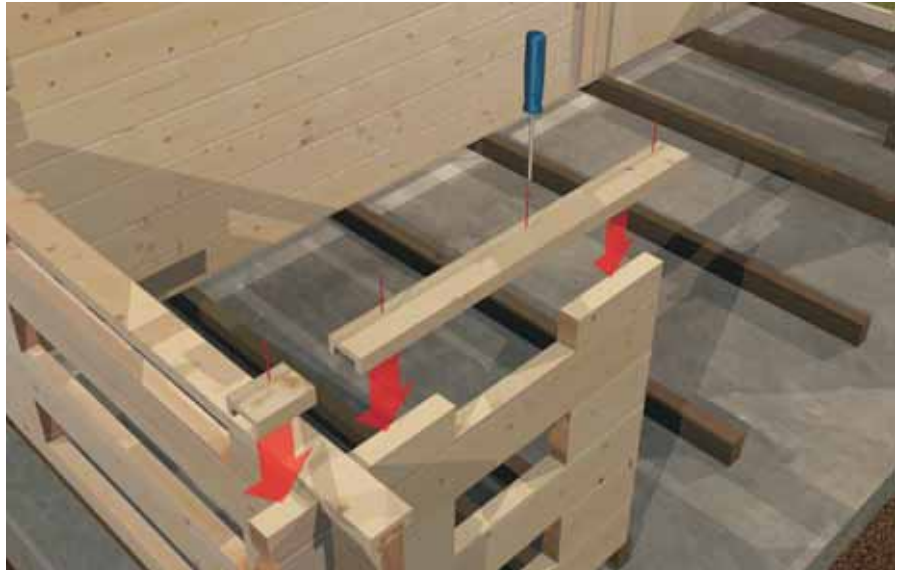


**23.11** Lay the trimmed handrail on the terrace side rail with its U-shaped opening facing downwards. When the rear end is flush with the cabin wall, the notches you have cut should sit snugly around the terrace front rail. Secure it down onto the terrace rail using the screws provided.



**23.12** Lay the terrace front handrail over the main part of the terrace front rail and the short handrail over the section that extends beyond the side rail. Screw them down to secure.

Repeat steps 23.6 to 23.12 for the opposite pair of terrace rails.

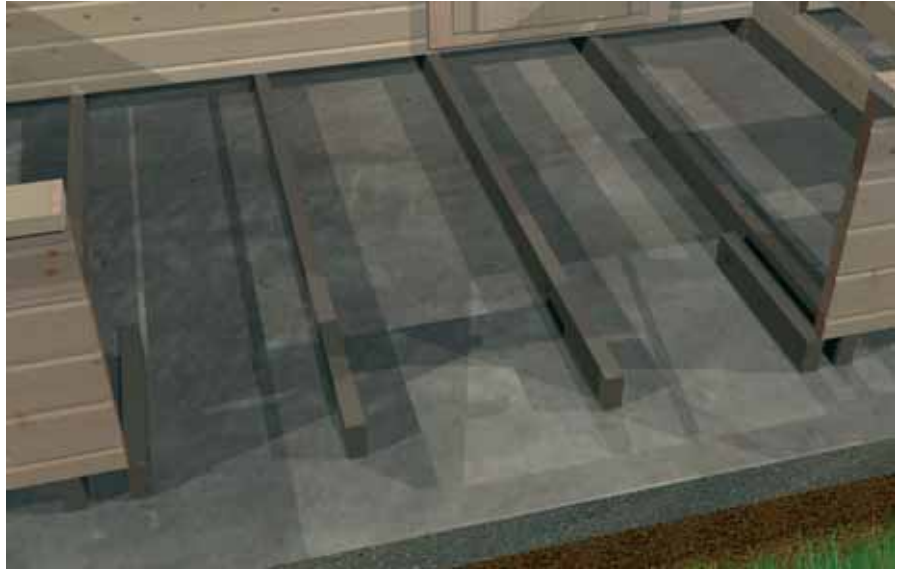


**23.13** Align the inner edges of the handrails with the inner faces of the terrace-rail wall boards. Check that everything is square, then secure with nails.



## 23.14

Lay the two remaining short terrace floor beams (part ref T2) between the second and third and between the fourth and fifth terrace floor beams. Lay them parallel with the existing beams so that their leading edges align and they lie just clear of the terrace front rail.



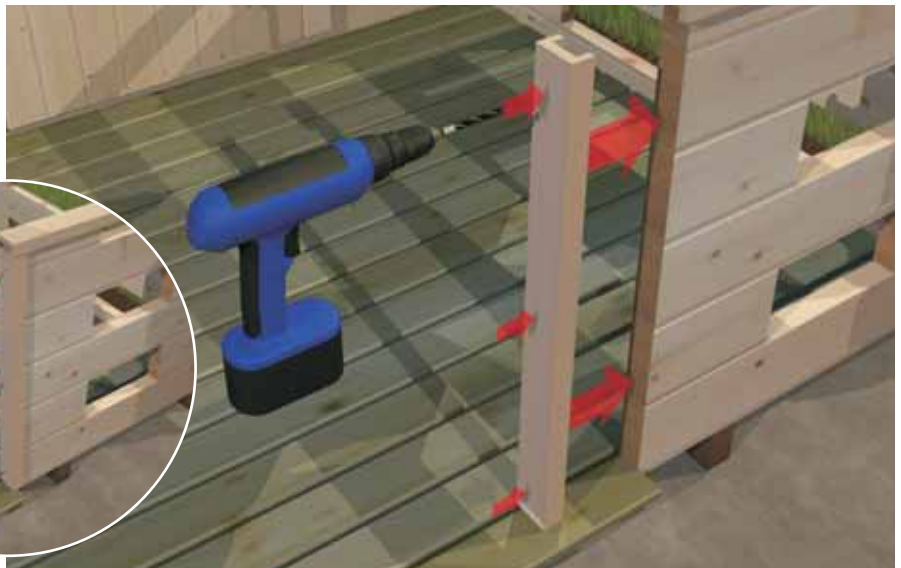
## 23.15

Lay all the terrace deckboards loosely across the terrace. Adjust to create equal drainage gaps between (roughly 6mm) and fix the deckboards into position. Using the nails provided apply 2 per underlying joist.



## 23.16

Carefully pre-drill holes through the terrace fascias, allowing you then to screw the terrace capping vertically to the ends of the front-rail boards on either side of the entrance.



**23.17** Pre-drill the terrace facing panels, then attach the terrace to the cabin using the two facing panels, Screw these vertically to the outer faces of the terrace rails using and cabin walls using the screws provided.



**23.18** Nail terrace beam cover board to the exposed front ends of the terrace floor beams.



## 24.0 timber treatments

Your log cabin will last longer if you treat the timbers (interior and exterior) with preservative. Do not treat your timbers until you have completely finished building.

NB: DO NOT TREAT THE INTERNAL WALLS OF YOUR CABIN IF YOU INTEND TO USE IT AS A SAUNA.

## 25.0 wood - a natural material

Wood is a natural material. No two boards in your cabin are alike. They will expand and contract to reflect changes in the moisture content of their surroundings. They come with natural markings and imperfections.

Expansion and contraction may cause slight deformation in some of your cabin components. If joints are tight, they can be eased by paring with a knife or a chisel.

After construction, the entire cabin will tend to settle. The amount of settling varies from building to building. After a few weeks, check joints and screws. Some screws may need to be tightened or relocated. Doors and windows may need adjustment.

After a while cracks may appear in some timbers. No need to worry: cracks are natural. They will not reduce the strength or the warmth of your cabin.

## 26.0 health and safety

Take care when building your log cabin. Wear safety goggles when drilling, cutting, or sawing; wear gloves when hammering. Always cut away from you when you use a knife or a chisel; do not wrap your fingers behind any piece of wood that you are cutting or sawing.

Pay particular attention when using ladders or working on the roof. Make sure your ladder is vertical, that it stands on firm ground, and that it's leaning on a solid object. Do not leave heavy or sharp objects in places where they could fall down.

Wood creates splinters. You can minimise the chance of catching a splinter in your hands by wearing safety gloves.

Take care when applying preservative. Follow the manufacturer's instructions if preservative gets in eyes or on skin or clothes.

Keep children away from the area where you are working, and away from ladders, tools and cabin components. Do not let them climb on the cabin.

## 27.0 customer service

If you want to discuss any aspect of the construction or care of your cabin, or if you want to report a damaged or missing component, please contact your technical team - their details are stated on your confirmation letter, quoting the reference number displayed on the transit packaging.

## 28.0 glossary

Some of the terms used in these instructions may be unfamiliar:  
This is what they mean.

architrave

*door and window surround*

cabin reference number

*unique reference number to identify your cabin in case of a query – found on the packing label*

cross-diagonal

*measured length from corner to corner – when cross-diagonals are equal, your cabin is square*

DPC

*damp proof course*

eaves

*lowest part of the roof slope*

fascia board

*board attached to eaves or gable to cover exposed edges of roof boards*

fascia cover board

*board attached to eaves or gable to cover joint between roof boards and fascia boards*

floor beam

*darker impregnated beam that supports the floors*

foundation beam

*darker impregnated beam that supports the external walls*

frame capping

*capping with an L-shaped cross-section for the topmost architraves of doors and windows*

full-height board

*standard height wall board for cabin construction*

gable

*triangular section of wall between the two roof slopes*

half-height board

*half the height of a full-height board – the first board to be laid in cabin construction*

ridge beam

*main and uppermost supporting beam for roof*

roof beam

*intermediate supporting beam for roof*

roof board

*board that covers roof*

storm batten

*corner-fixed vertical timber for securing cabin walls*

tongue and groove

*interlocking joint between wall boards and floorboards*

wall board

*interlocking wooden board used in main cabin construction*



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Wood is the only building material that is truly renewable, if well managed. Forest certification schemes give assurance that the timber is legal and from sustainable sources. Finnforest UK sources certified timber over uncertified and is an approved Chain of Custody supplier.

FF1951/**FFUK** April 2007.

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