

AFTER



BEFORE



RESTORATION over renovation

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW FEARMAN

A new log or wood home can be one of the most aesthetically pleasing sights in Muskoka, the reds and browns of the exterior meshing beautifully with the surrounding environment.

However, even with a lot of tender loving care, a log home or cottage eventually weathers. Time wears it down and its original hues will fade to greys and blacks. The surface begins to deteriorate, and the finish starts to peel.

When this happens, owners sometimes feel they need to renovate, or even cover over the wood with artificial cladding. "This isn't the only option," says Chris Rumball of Cedar Laine Restoration.

"It's a shame to spend all that time and money on a renovation when we can bring back your home to a like-new appearance."

Cedar Laine has been reviving old wood items since 1988, restoring home and cottage exteriors as well as interior cabinets, floors, ceilings and walls.

The process starts by blasting the structure to open the pores of the wood. This removes the old finishes and provides a solid surface which stain can be applied to later.

There are many types of media to use for blasting: dry ice, sand or glass beads to name a few. "We recommend using corn cob as the blasting application,"

says Chris. "It's environmentally friendly, and the most cost-effective method."

Blasting is followed by manual sanding of window trims, door trims, handrails and other hard-to-reach areas. Then comes a low pressure power wash, which incorporates a biodegradable solution designed to kill fungi or mildew.

"This solution eliminates any spores which may be hanging onto the wood," says Chris. "For a log structure, we also apply a borate solution to help prevent rot and insect infestation."

Now the structure is ready to be stained. Cedar Laine uses a high-quality finish and applies

it by hand. Depending on the manufacturer's specifications, the stain is a two-coat system of the same product.

Finally, Cedar Laine Restoration finishes the project by replacing chinking or caulking, sealing any gaps in the logs to prevent wind, rain or insects from entering. "Chinking also helps prevent mildew. When it's done with backer rods, it seals the home for better energy

efficiency," says Chris.

The end result is a complete transformation. "Two years ago, this cottage's exterior was black all around," says Chris, standing outside a log cottage.

Now, it looks almost new, with its original light brown colouring brilliantly shining in the summer sun. **DS**

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