MOLD AND MILDEW

Moldy wood is usually a precursor to rot or decay. Severe cases of rot and decay are likely to be found around corners or base logs. Indicating a moisture problem that may be addressed with gutters, flashing, or other drainage solutions. Mold grows anytime the temperature is above freezing, but it thrives at temperatures above 70f/20c. Mold needs three things to survive.

1) ***Warm temperature***
2) ***A food source***
3) ***Moisture***

Take away any of the three and mold will not grow. When logs have been freshly peeled or milled, the sap comes to the surface. This makes a nutritious and hearty meal for an up and coming mold spore. Mold spores are like tiny airborne seeds that are present in almost every part of the world. If they land on a surface that has the right combination of temperatures, food and humidity, they grow and multiply into large colonies. However, if mold has already started, and you kill it, there could still be some discoloration which can be cleaned with ULTRA-KLEEN, and/or **Ultra-Brite**. This should be done before using any MENCO products on wood; whether on the interior or exterior of your home. Moisture content in most wood should be 18% or less (cedar, redwood, or cypress should be 12% or less moisture). Moisture can be measured with a Moisture Meter. A simple test, spray some water on the wood surface. If the water penetrates immediately, you can stain your wood. If the water beads and lays on the substrate, your wood has too much moisture content on the surface. This will allow mold and mildew to form under your finish and become black; or a visible white fungi could appear on your surface. The secret to longevity is LOW MOISTURE!! Mold and mildew are fungus growths that form on various materials including stains and paint surfaces. ***Men-Wood™*** has fungicides in it to fight against this problem for surface growth. Mold and mildew is a natural occurrence world wide, and MENCO cannot assume responsibility for it's formation on your wood or logs.

WOOD'S MOISTURE CONTENT

GREENWOOD: Moisture is 30% or more, sometimes as high as 100%. This is the condition of newly harvested healthy trees. The wood fibers are normally saturated with water depending on the elevation and climate.

SURFACE DRY WOOD: Moisture content is 25% or less. This is the condition of wood two weeks to four months after cutting and debarking. The outer 1/8 inch of the wood's surface feels dry to the touch. Many log homes are sold in this condition.

DRY LUMBER: Moisture content is 18% or less (cedar, redwood, or cypress should be 12% or less moisture). This is the standard set by the American Softwood Lumber Standards Association. It generally applies to cut dimensional lumber, but may also be applied to logs. Lumber can take a year to two years to air dry to this moisture level depending on the relative humidity of the area.

KILN DRIED WOOD: Moisture content is 15% or less. This is also a standard set by the A.S.L.S.A. Logs, because of their thickness, require two to three weeks in a forced air drying kiln to reach this moisture level. If the center of the log is reduced to this moisture content, very little additional shrinkage will occur in them as they are dimensionally stable.