

Fireside Lodge Furniture Company

Pequot Lakes, Minnesota

TPM Member Since
August 2013



Lonesome Cottage Furniture Company, Inc., dba, Fireside Lodge Furniture Company produces unique, high quality rustic furniture that compliments any northwoods chalet or mountain retreat! The experienced craftsmen produce furnishings that offer a lifetime of stunning rustic ambience that easily become family heirlooms to be passed down for generations.

Founded by Matt & Jeff Balmer (two college aged men) in 1998, Brandon and Jill Andersen purchased the company in 2003. Fireside Lodge Furniture has been built with the philosophy of offering high quality rustic furnishings at fair prices. Fireside Lodge Furniture is found in thousands of homes and businesses across North America. As one of the leaders in the manufacturing of rustic furniture, it has seen dramatic growth in the last sixteen years. Its commitment to quality and value remains the same today as when its first piece of furniture was built. A new production facility was built in 2007. The plant lay-out was planned to be very streamlined. It also purchased CNC equipment and digital saws to add more precision to its production process.



Fireside Lodge Furniture's production facility is approximately 35,000 square feet.

Northern White Cedar is abundant in Northern Minnesota and has more character than the pine. Since Fireside Lodge hand peels all of the logs much of inner-cambium is left on the log. There are more knots in cedar because the branches are closer together on the cedar tree. The Northern White Cedar logs are cut in the winter time in extreme Northern Minnesota. After they have been cut, they are air dried for at least two summers. This process allows the bark to be easily removed, preserving the log's natural character like rustic knots, worm tracking and beetle holes. In order to use the entire log, the bark peelings and cedar log waste is made into landscape mulch.

The Hickory used in the Fireside Lodge Furniture is made from logs that are a fast-growing renewable resource in the Southeastern United States. Each time a sapling is harvested, as



The first step in building any furniture is hand peeling the logs. By hand peeling instead of power washing the bark off the trees, we are able to keep the natural character of the wood.

No one compares to the quality and American Craftsmanship of the furnishings manufactured at Fireside Lodge Furniture. All of its products are individually handcrafted, ensuring that each piece is truly unique. The company talks to its customers to learn how to better fill their needs and inovate new designs.

Fireside Lodge is environmentally friendly. Its products are crafted from Northern White Cedar, Hickory, or Reclaimed Oak Barnwood.



The artisan weaves cedar branches together to create a twig bed headboard.

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many as five or six “sprouts” emerge from the stump. Then in as few as ten years, these sprouts are harvested and the regeneration begins again. Hickory logs are “winter cut” and kiln dried to a specific moisture content to ensure that the bark fully adheres to the log.

Barnwood furniture is produced from Oak that is reclaimed from tobacco barns built in the 1800s. Fireside Lodge is currently building furniture from barnwood that Civil War soldiers slept on. Just think of the stories that these boards could tell.

All of the hand crafted full log furniture is constructed using mortise and tenon. Every piece is glued and screwed to ensure that the joints will last a lifetime. Fireside has a customized tenon cutting machine that makes each tenon look hand scribed and very natural.

All case good furniture trim is pocket glued and screwed to the cabinet. Although more expensive, cabinet grade plywood is used for all tops and sides of the furniture to ensure that there are no issues with warping and cracking. All items with drawers use aspen strip drawer runners on each side of the drawer that the full-extension ball bearings drawer glides are attached to. The extra framework pieces provide stability for each piece.



Cedar bedroom set. (Dog not included.)

When Jill Anderson was asked how the company came to TPM, she said, “The safety and human resources functions that TPM offers were a big sell coming out of the gate.” As a new member of TPM, Jill went on to say, “The TPM Staff are very knowledgeable and professional. We have appreciated the counsel and guidance that they have given us.”

In summation Fireside Lodge Furniture keeps a core set of values that aren’t easily found in the lodge furniture industry: 1) innovation; 2) an ease of doing business with; 3) a culture of excellence; 4) high quality products in the marketplace; and 5) integrity. The high quality rustic furniture is sold nationwide at over 300 dealers.



An employee installs hardware on the chest of drawers.

All of the drawers are dovetailed on corner joints and the drawer bottoms are dadoed in using 9-ply Baltic Birch plywood. The ball-bearing guides are rated at 100 pounds. The doors feature European-style six-way adjustable hinges. Doors are made using a five piece raised panel construction which allow them to expand and contract without warping or cracking. As an extra touch of craftsmanship, Fireside uses aromatic cedar bottoms in all of its drawers in dressers, armoires, and wardrobes and is one of the select few companies that continue this tradition today.

The production floor of the facility is about 35,000 square feet. It is heated with a smokeless incinerator/boiler unit that is fueled by wood waste. The company cares for the environment and is always on the lookout for innovative ways to improve its manufacturing. Fireside Log Furniture is compliant with the California Air Resources Board (CARB).



Completed authentic barnwood dining table.

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