

Ask Jon Eakes

Solidifying rotting wood in a log cabin with Epoxy.

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Wood Restoration is the process of using a very liquid epoxy mix to saturate wood, strengthening the fibers at the same time killing fungi. Then a thick putty like epoxy is used to fill in, such as on the centers of logs next to the corner saddles in a log cabin.

This material has the unique characteristic that it can be effectively applied to wood that is surface dry but having up to 30% moisture content. For this reason it is widely used by wood turners to solidify beautiful rotting wood for turning bowls. It is also effective at rebuilding rotting wood around the house, like the bottom of porch columns and wooden window sills.

It is not cheap and to save some money you should use both putty and wood scraps when filling in voids, to minimize how much putty you need. Similar products are available from MinWax and others, but none that I have found that work as well as BCS because it does not require that the wood be perfectly dry. The photos show the steps to restoring rotten wood with the BCS products.

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