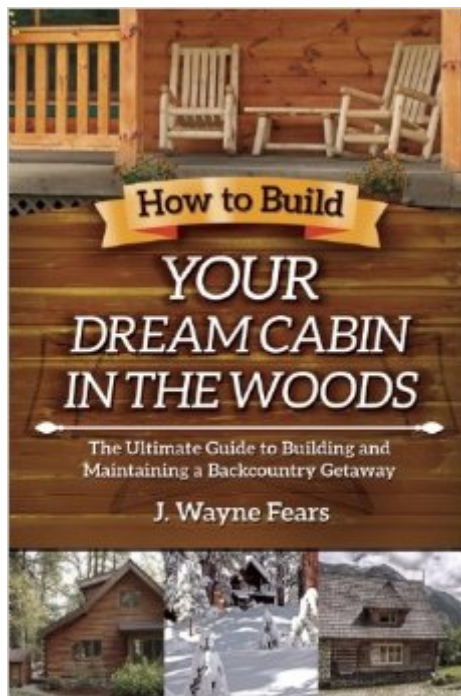


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# How To Build Your Dream Cabin In The Woods: The Ultimate Guide To Building And Maintaining A Backcountry Getaway



## Synopsis

For generations, nature lovers, writers, and sportsmen have found an escape from their day-to-day world in living closer to nature. J. Wayne Fears offers a complete guide to building without the hassle of a construction crew or outrageous costs. This ultimate resource includes photos, blueprints, and diagrams, and covers the steps to constructing the cabin you've always wanted such as: Selecting a site Gathering construction materials Deciding on a design that is right for you Managing your property Building add-ons, such as shooting ranges, an outhouse, or an outside fire ring Installing cabin security And more Now, with *How to Build Your Dream Cabin in the Woods*, everyone can have the refuge they want—a getaway beside a trout-filled stream, near a bass-laden lake, or by a mountain trail with a breathtaking view.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book doesn't live up to its title's promise of "how to build your dream cabin..." though it's a pleasant book and offers a few useful ideas. If you haven't yet bought the land or built the cabin, the book is a good start, providing information about what you should think about (location, cabin style and size, floor plan, etc.) and how to get on with a few basic needs (like an outhouse, light, heat, and cooking). But you won't find any building plans here other than for a small woodshed, a bunk bed, a simple outdoor bench, and a birdhouse. If you already have a cabin, the material in this book is less helpful. Fears tends to let you know about some types of decisions you can make (such as

outhouse options or cooking options), but he's pretty short on the detail that might actually inform those decisions. For example, he says he prefers Coleman lanterns for indoor light, and propane camp stoves for indoor cooking, but he never addresses the concern of using propane appliances indoors (which ones are the safest?). In discussing kitchen options, he describes his city-water sink set-up and once mentions a grease pit, but says nothing further about grease pits. (Where, dear environmentally friendly reader, will all your dishwater go?) And given all his experience in deep woods, there's not a word about the mix of food and wildlife, except to mention mice (midnight raccoons and bear seem to be my problem when I cook outside). I thought his absolute best piece of advice was to not skimp on bedding. Fortunately, my wife and I have a good mattress at our cabin for ourselves, but we've neglected the kid and guest beds. It's not a project that can be romanticized, but one to work on at once. I also thought he neglects to reflect on logistics.

So many of us have a dream cabin in the woods envisioned in our minds--I do, too. Most of us never do get to realize it, but it can still be fun to dream. Actually, as I write this, I seem to be nearing the realization of my dream, and so I picked up the Kindle version of *How to Build Your Dream Cabin in the Woods* to learn more. There is much to learn. This is not the first such book I've read, but it would be a great choice as an introduction to learning about log cabins. J. Wayne Fears writes in a manner that is easy to follow and understood by anyone, not just someone practiced in construction. But then, the book isn't really about the actual construction (a glossary does list log cabin builders and kits). It is more of an introduction to the dream, familiarizing the reader with all the considerations to be made going into such a project. Not least among such considerations, the author notes, is thinking through if one truly appreciates a life of solitude and seclusion. Log cabins tend to be built in secluded areas of wilderness, and that does not mean a life of convenience transported from the suburbs. He suggests trying out such a lifestyle if even for a short vacation, to be sure that one is comfortable with it. There are trade-offs to be made, but the benefits can be tremendous. He recounts the story of a couple who longed for a log home in the woods, built one, moved in, only to find they couldn't bear the disconnect from the life of convenience and social connection to which they were accustomed. Fears also makes it clear that this book is not about log homes. It is about log cabins.

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