



FIREWOOD ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INC



Australian Government

Our Land. Our Plan. Our Future

Buying, Storing and Burning Firewood

Buying Firewood

To ensure you are getting the most from your firewood, you should always buy from a reputable merchant who complies with the national Code of Practice and is licensed by the Firewood Association of Australia Inc. to use its certification trade mark.

Order your winter wood early. To beat the rush, it can be wise to buy your wood in spring or early summer. Not only can you sometimes benefit from cheaper prices and reduced delivery lead-times during the off-season, but this also allows time for the wood to cure properly (moisture content should be less than 25%).

Storing Firewood

Store wood in a well ventilated, covered location. A wood shed with an open side, preferably to the north, is best. If a woodshed is not available, wood stored in the open with a secured waterproof cover (e.g. a tarpaulin or corrugated iron) on top is the next best option.

If possible, store firewood off the ground, on a pallet, layer of bricks, stone, or plastic sheet to prevent moisture from being drawn up into the wood. This also reduces the number of insects getting into the wood-pile, minimizing the risk of being bitten. Wood stored in a criss-cross pattern allows for greater air circulation.

Firewood should never be stored against a house, as it allows a bridge for termites. In areas where bushfires are a risk, storing wood against a house is a dangerous practice.

If firewood has to be stored in the open, keep a few days supply under cover. Seasoned firewood wetted by rain will dry again within a few days.

Burning Firewood

- Make sure your wood is dry – wet wood burns poorly and emits more smoke

- Light a fire using sufficient kindling to establish a hot fire quickly and open air vents fully
- Use smaller logs to get the fire established
- Run combustion heaters on a high burn rate for the first 20-25 minutes of operation
- Don't turn your fire down (i.e. limit air supply) until it is well established with red coals
- Allow air to circulate between the logs by not overfilling the heater.
- Use larger logs for slower burning once the fire is established
- Don't block the incoming air supply with logs
- Rekindle the fire quickly with a bit of newspaper and small wood if the fuel load has burnt down to only a few glowing coals

Tips for buying certified sustainable firewood

Choose your firewood supplier wisely. There are firewood suppliers who source their wood illegally, or who harvest their wood with no regard for environmental values. Their wood may be cheap, but it can also be of dubious quality, inadequately seasoned and inaccurately measured. Buying from a firewood merchant who is certified by the Firewood Association of Australia Inc. is the best way to ensure that you get a quality product that will burn well. And you will be helping to prevent the unsustainable and illegal cutting of Australia's precious native habitat.

All this adds up to good sense, both for you and for the environment. So always look for the FAA Certification Mark, which identifies your "certified sustainable firewood" supplier.

www.firewood.asn.au.

Look for the distinctive FAA Certification Mark which is displayed by FAA members or call

1300 131 481

for your nearest member.

or email; info@firewood.asn.au

