

How to Protect Yourself

You may see wood advertised by a “face cord” or “truckload” or “rack” or “wheelbarrow”. These are all illegal terms and firewood may not be sold or advertised using them. Firewood may only be sold by the cord or fraction of the cord (or in cubic volume for bundled firewood).

When the wood is delivered, ask the seller to stack it as described earlier (you may have to pay extra for this service) or stack the wood yourself. Measure the wood before using any. If the cubic measurement indicates that you did not receive the correct volume, contact the seller before you burn any wood.

FOR FIRE SAFETY, DO NOT STACK WOOD UNDER PORCHES OR DECKS OR AGAINST YOUR HOUSE



What To Do If You Think You've Been Short-Changed?

If the seller can't, or won't, correct the problem, contact your local weights and measures office immediately before you burn any wood. It is also helpful to document the possible shortage by taking a picture of the stacked wood. Contact us at one of our offices listed in this brochure. You can also contact us by email at:

awm@awm.sbcounty.gov

Visit us online at: <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/awm/>

OFFICE LOCATIONS

San Bernardino (Main Office)

777 E. Rialto Ave.
San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0720
800-734-9459
909 387-2105
FAX 909-387-2449

Barstow (by appt only)

301 E. Mt. View Ave.
Barstow, CA 92311
760-256-4861
(FAX is same number)

Ontario

1640 S. Grove Ave.
Ontario, CA 91764
909-673-0435
FAX 909-930-2571

Hesperia

15900 Smoketree St.
Hesperia, CA 92345
760-995-8251 or 8252
FAX 760-995-8255

How to Avoid Getting Burned When Buying Firewood



Agriculture / Weights & Measures

(909) 387-2140
(800) 734-9459

awm@awm.sbcounty.gov

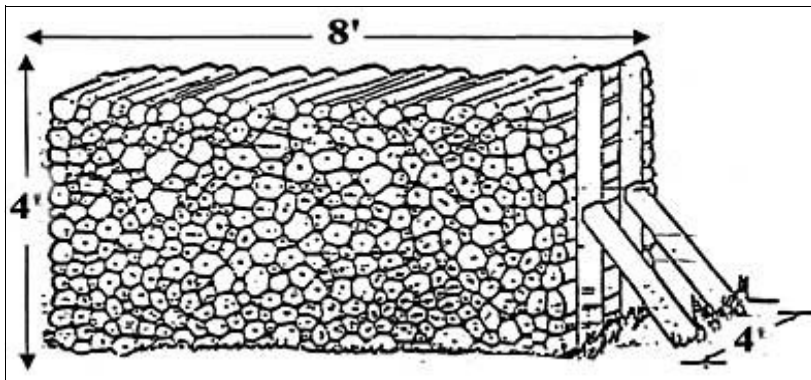
<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/awm/>

How to Avoid Getting Burned When Buying Firewood

Whether you use it to heat your home or if you just burn it occasionally in your fireplace, you should be a smart shopper when you purchase firewood.

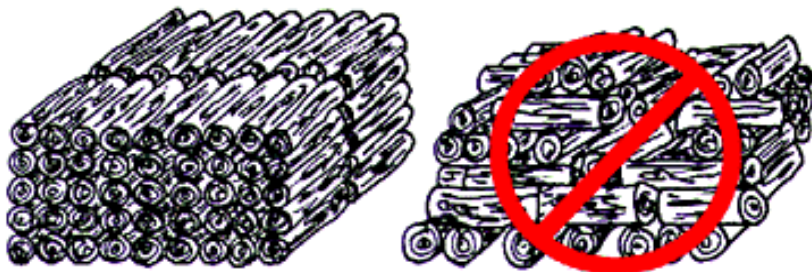
What Is A Cord?

Firewood is sold by a measurement called a "cord." A cord is any measure of wood equal to 128 cubic feet. In one example, a stack four feet wide by four feet high by eight feet long is equal to a cord. Fractions of a cord are also allowed.



Stacking A Cord For Measurement

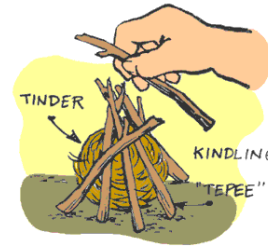
To be sure you have a cord, stack the wood neatly by placing the wood in a line or a row, with individual pieces touching and all parallel to each other, making sure that the wood is compact and minimizing spacing between the pieces. Then measure the stack. If the width times the height times the length equals 128 cubic feet, you have a cord of firewood. Be aware that each time you restack a pile, the dimensions will change a little because of the differing air spaces between pieces.



What Kind of Wood Are You Buying?

Hardwoods like oak and eucalyptus will provide more heat energy and burn longer than softwood species. Wood from conifers (pines), aspen and cedar trees may not be advertised as hardwood. Most wood from fruit trees like citrus and avocado burn better than softwood.

Seasoned or dry firewood has many benefits over green or freshly cut firewood. Dry wood greatly reduces the potential of insect pest nuisances, is easier to light, and reduces creosote build-up in chimneys.



Building The Best Fire

The best fire is achieved with a mixture of hardwoods such as eucalyptus or oak, and softwoods such as cedar, pine or Douglas fir. Hardwoods by themselves usually don't burn efficiently or hot enough, causing a build up of creosote in your chimney. Softwoods usually burn too hot and too quickly. A mixture of the soft and hard woods will optimize the temperature of the fire, creating the right conditions to properly burn off any creosote produced. Fir is a good middle ground, it is in the midrange of BTU output, and burns efficiently when seasoned properly.

Get What You Pay For And Get It In Writing

When you buy firewood make sure to get a sales invoice or delivery ticket! Every seller of firewood must provide an invoice for every purchase of bulk firewood.



The invoice must show the following:

- Name and address of the seller
- Date of sale or delivery
- Quantity of the wood (when ranked and well stowed)
- Total price paid for the wood

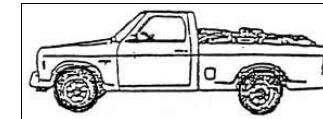
It's also a good idea to get the phone number. If you found the dealer in an advertisement, keep a copy of the ad with your receipt. If the wood is delivered, get the license number of the delivery vehicle.

Tell Tale Signs of a Rip-Off!

Reputable dealers will gladly give an invoice. If your dealer won't give you one, beware!

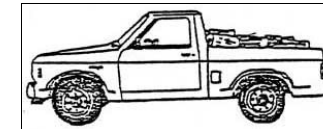
You can't haul a cord of wood in a standard pickup truck. A pickup would need to be loaded over four feet high with wood. Most standard pickups are not rated to safely carry the weight of a full cord.

In addition, the wood is generally not ranked and well stowed when loaded on the truck. Random stacking significantly increases the size of air spaces between pieces and is one of the primary ways that firewood customers are fooled into thinking more wood was delivered than they actually received.



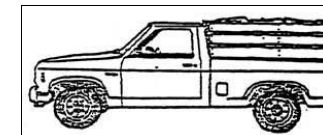
Small Pickup -- 1/4 ton

With or without racks this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 (one-half) cord of wood.



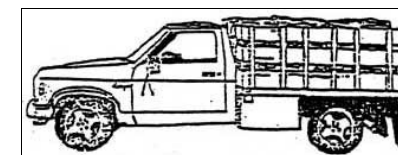
Short Bed Pickup -- 1/2 ton

With or without racks this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 (one-half) cord of wood.



Long Bed Pickup -- 1/2 or 3/4 ton

Without racks this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 (one-half) cord of wood. With racks this truck bed holds approximately 1 (one) cord of wood.



Standard Truck -- 1 ton

With high racks this truck bed holds approximately 1 1/2 (one and a half) cords of wood.