

## Buying & Selling Firewood in Iowa ... Don't Get Burned!

Emerald ash borer was found in Iowa May 2010. The discovery of this invasive species is an excellent reminder to all Iowans about pests that move with firewood, as well as the basic requirements of how firewood is to be labeled for sale in Iowa.

### Why is NOT moving firewood important?

Firewood can transport many invasive insect pests such as the emerald ash borer, Sirex wood wasp, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth, as well as plant pathogens causing beech bark disease, sudden oak death, thousand canker of walnut, and oak wilt. Several states in our country are engaged in control measures aimed at these destructive forest pests. The movement of infested firewood has proven to be the source of many infestations throughout the United States. In Iowa, our motto is *Buy Local & Burn Local!*

### How can I tell if firewood from a quarantined area in another state is pest-free?

USDA can only certify material if it is coming from a quarantined area. The USDA-certified material will have a federal shield on the label, to show that the firewood has been processed or treated according to federal regulations, so that pest risks are mitigated before crossing quarantined boundaries. The federal firewood shield indicates that the 'regulated article' has been certified by USDA as having been processed and transported properly under domestic quarantine requirements.



### New state requirement - labeling of all firewood sold in Iowa, to include the harvest location.

Since January 1, 2011, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship requires all firewood sold in Iowa to have the county and state of harvest location on the label of packages and the delivery ticket for bulk firewood.

### Iowa firewood labeling requirements.

Packaged firewood offered, exposed, advertised or held for sale must bear a clear and conspicuous declaration of:

- Identity of the commodity (e.g., 'firewood');
  - A declaration of identity may indicate species group (e.g., 50% ash, 50% oak);
- Net quantity in terms of cubic feet or cubic meters, including fractions. A cord is also acceptable, as it is 128 cubic feet, ranked and well stowed;
- Name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor if the packages were not produced on the premises where they are offered, exposed or held for sale;
- Unit price; and
- Harvest location of the wood by county and state

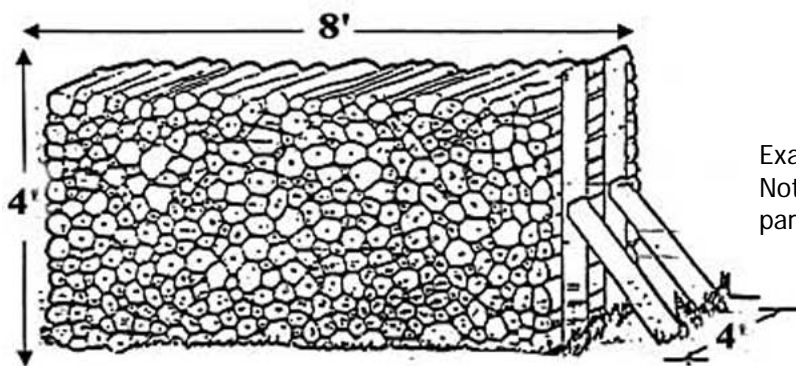
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Bulk firewood offered, exposed, advertised or held for sale, must be accompanied by a delivery ticket containing the following information:

- Identity of the commodity (e.g. 'firewood');
  - A declaration of identity may indicate species group (e.g., 50% ash, 50% oak);
- Net quantity delivered in terms of cubic feet or cubic meters, including fractions. A cord is also acceptable, as it is 128 cubic feet, stacked and well stowed;
- Name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor who measured and distributed the firewood;
- Date delivered;
- Unit price; and
- Harvest location of the wood by county and state

### Definitions.

- Cord – The amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when the wood is stacked and well stowed. Stacked and well stowed means that pieces of wood are placed in a line or row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, and stacked in a compact manner.
  - To be sure you have a cord or advertised amount, you can stack and measure the wood. For example, a cord of firewood, when stacked, could be a pile that is either:
    - 4 feet wide, 4 feet high, and 8 feet long ( $4 \times 4 \times 8 = 128$ ); or
    - 2 feet wide, 4 feet high and 16 feet long ( $2 \times 4 \times 16 = 128$ );
    - 1.5 feet wide, 4 feet high and 21.3 feet long ( $1.5 \times 4 \times 21.3 = 128$ )



Example of a cord of firewood.  
Note how the wood is stacked parallel & in a compact manner.

- Firewood – any kindling, log, board, timbers, or other wood, natural or processed, split or not split, advertised, offered for sale, or sold for use for fuel.

### Prohibited terms.

The terms "face cord," "rack," "pile," "truckload," or similar terms shall not be used when advertising, offering for sale, or selling firewood.

### Questions?

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