

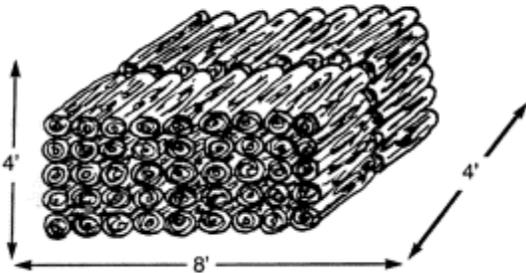
Firewood

The most important things to remember about firewood sales:

I. All firewood sales must be measured in cords.

The only **legal method** of selling firewood is by the cord. According to Steve Connors, Weights and Measures Section Administrator, "Firewood has to be sold by the cord. A cord is a volumetric measurement. Nothing else is legal." Connors said "Many people don't know what a cord is. Consumers really cannot tell what a cord is unless it is stacked up and measured.

4' X 4' X 8' = 128 Cubic feet = a Cord



A cord of wood always measures **128 cubic feet** – 128 cubic feet of compactly stacked wood in a rectangular form. It can be **4' X 4' X 8'** (four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long). It can be **2' X 8' X 8'** (two feet high by eight feet wide by eight feet long). It just has to stack up to 128 cubic feet.

The wood should be stacked with the pieces parallel to each other. Wood stacked in a crisscross or log cabin fashion does not meet the legal definition; and most likely the stack will contain less wood than one that is stacked by the legal parallel method.

Regulation prohibits the sale of firewood in unspecified quantities such as "load," "truckload," "face cord," "rack," or "pile." If a buyer purchases more than 100 pounds of wood, the seller is **required** to inform the buyer about the cord equivalent of the purchase of firewood. Fractions of cords are allowed to be sold when identified as such.

DDA encourages firewood consumers to follow these guidelines:

- When placing the order, ask how the seller measures the wood and make sure those standards are precise and accurate.
- Don't assume terms such as truckload, face cord, rack or pile guarantee the amount of firewood is a cord.
- Don't pay for the wood unless it has been stacked and measured.
- If you are a first time buyer, ask people you know to recommend sellers with whom they've had positive business dealings.
- Always get a receipt with the seller's name, address and telephone number, and the price, amount and kind of wood bought. Write down the license number of the delivery vehicle.
- Take a picture of the stack if you think there is less than a cord.
- Don't burn any wood if you believe you have a problem. Contact the seller first.

II. To protect Delaware's forests and trees, consumers should only purchase firewood from trees grown in Delaware.

- The Delaware Department of Agriculture is in a heightened surveillance mode because of the threat of a host of alien, wood boring insects in neighboring states: **Sirex wood wasp** in Pennsylvania, **Asian longhorned beetle** in New Jersey, **Emerald ash borer** in Pennsylvania and Maryland. A likely avenue for these pests to come into Delaware is through imported firewood.
- The wood may be dead, but that doesn't mean that the nasty pests are dead. Many of the invasive species go right on living inside of the wood, even small pieces of the wood. They can escape into the environment and decimate local trees and forests. **Don't let them get a foothold in Delaware! Buy local!**

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