

FIREWOOD BEST PRACTICES FOR RETAILERS



Did you know

that by moving firewood you could be moving highly destructive forest pests?

As a retailer, knowing where and how your firewood is produced and treated is vital to protect our trees, forests, and your business from pests and diseases.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) works with producers, retailers, campground operators and the public to stop the spread of invasive forest pests. No one person or group can stop the spread of invasive forest pests – we all need to work together. With the help of a national advisory group, 'best practices' have been developed as part of the **Buy Local, Burn Local** national campaign to stop the movement of forest pests in firewood.

As an important partner, the following eight best practices have been developed with and for retailers to encourage responsible firewood sales. These best practices provide a practical checklist to help make sure you are distributing firewood that is 'invasive pest free'.

Forest pests such as gypsy moth, emerald ash borer and Asian long-horn beetle are often moved through firewood and can destroy Canadian forests and urban trees.

Canada's annual timber losses due to invasives are estimated at \$720 million.

(Canadian Action Plan for Invasive Alien Terrestrial Plant and Plant Pests (CFIA, September, 2004)).

Eight Best Practices for Retailers

1. Purchase and sell firewood that has been heat treated.

In Canada, there is commercially heat-treated firewood available to retailers. This heat treatment ensures that there are no live larvae, diseases or pests left in the firewood. Firewood should be heat treated in a kiln to an internal temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes.

2. Sell local firewood.

If heat treated wood is not available, then using firewood close to where it has been harvested reduces the chances of transporting invasive pests or pathogens. Buy and sell firewood that has been produced locally or partially treated. Partial treatment of firewood includes bark removal and drying/seasoning. These methods are not comprehensive enough to ensure that all larvae, diseases or pests are sufficiently removed, but they can help reduce the overall amount of them residing in the wood.

3. Look for certification.

If purchasing heat treated firewood, look for producers who's heat treatment practices have been certified by a Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). All firewood imported into Canada requires certification an approved kiln evaluator.*

Avoid moving firewood outside of regulated areas. Without approval, movement outside of regulated areas is prohibited, no matter the distance. Visit www.inspection.gc.ca/firewood for more information.

4. Know the requirements for firewood movement.

If you need to move firewood for any reason, know the requirements for domestic movement of firewood in Canada, as outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency*. Be aware of additional regulations that may exist at provincial, territorial or regional levels. If you need to move firewood to the US, additional measures are required.**

5. Sell labelled firewood and store properly.

Keep records that show the origin of harvest, date of harvest, species harvested, and treatment method(s) used for the firewood you are selling. Firewood purchased from producers that has been certified and treated should be labelled and properly stored and separated from untreated firewood to prevent new infestation. If you purchase local, partially or untreated firewood, include informative labeling and packaging to provide important information to consumers such as:

- a. Species of tree
- b. Where and when was the firewood harvested?
- c. What treatment method(s) were used?
- d. Was/how long was the wood seasoned for?

All firewood should be stored in a dry area protected from moisture and away from vegetation, soil and lighting. Consider adding slogans such as **“Buy Local, Burn Local”** to the label to inform consumers of best practices.***

Contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office if you suspect that you have found a regulated pest. The CFIA will follow up and determine if further action is needed.

6. Report infested firewood and invasive pests.

Regulated invasive pests and disease must be reported. If you suspect that some of your product may be infested by invasive pests or disease, call the CFIA at **1-800-442-2342** or visit www.inspection.gc.ca/pests for more information.

7. Provide staff training.

Provide information and training to your staff on the risks associated with firewood movement, and the identification features of priority invasive species. Trained staff will be better equipped to recognize and respond to infested firewood. Downloadable resources are available at www.buylocalburnlocal.ca.

8. Communicate the risk to your customers and partners.

- a. Take pride in the steps your company is taking to reduce the spread of invasive species. Advertise your responsible firewood practices on your website or in your store.
- b. Educate your customers on the risks associated with firewood movement at the time of sale. Provide them with informational resources and encourage them to ‘Buy Local, Burn Local’.
- c. Educate your partners and other retailers on the risks associated with firewood movement and encourage them to implement best management practices.

By volunteering to commit to these seven best practices, the CCIS would like to recognize you as an ambassador of the **Buy Local, Burn Local** campaign! Through this, you will receive formal recognition on our website, as well as resources such as posters and window decals for your retail store. For more information on how to join, visit www.buylocalburnlocal.ca.

Developed in partnership by the National Firewood Working Group.

* If importing firewood from outside of Canada, ensure Phytosanitary Requirements are met. This may include (but not limited to) a Permit to Import, a Phytosanitary Certificate, or a Certificate of Origin. Specific requirements are described in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s directive D-01-12: Phytosanitary Requirements for the Importation and Domestic Movement of Firewood.¹

** For information on firewood movement into the U.S. please visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/firewood>.

*** To encourage purchase of your firewood, ensure that it is dry, clean and convenient for purchase.

1 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/directives/forestry/d-01-12/eng/1323828428558/1323828505539>