

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WET WOOD?

Wet wood is a waste of fuel. Because of the high moisture content, logs do not burn as hot. The moisture cools the combustible gases needed to create heat. Wet wood is also an unhealthy fuel because it smolders and releases excessive smoke emissions, which pollutes the air indoors and outdoors.

WHAT IS THE MOISTURE DISCLOSURE PROGRAM?

Despite the disadvantages of burning wet wood, Alaskans commonly use it as a fuel source because it is easily accessible or they don't know they are burning wet wood.

The Moisture Disclosure Program is meant to encourage a dry wood market and provide additional information to residents that buy wood. It is designed to help connect wood buyers with wood sellers who provide dry wood or that provide moisture content information to their customers. Buyers who know the moisture content of their wood can make smart decisions about burning efficiently; this saves time, money and protects the air we breathe. Speaking to customers about the wood they purchase also helps sellers build positive reputations and customer loyalty.

There is no cost for wood sellers to participate in the program other than the purchase of an inexpensive moisture meter approved by DEC. Sellers are added to DEC's list of registered wood sellers which makes their business more visible to potential customers. Wood buyers can go online and find a list of local wood sellers that participate in the program.

BURN WISE, BREATHE EASY

BURN WISE AND BREATHE EASY BY BURNING THE RIGHT WOOD, THE RIGHT WAY, IN THE RIGHT STOVE.

FOR MORE TIPS ON BURNING WOOD WISELY OR TO FIND THE NEAREST MOISTURE DISCLOSURE PROGRAM MEMBER, VISIT BURNWISE.ALASKA.GOV.



MOISTURE DISCLOSURE PROGRAM



Don't let your money go up in smoke.



BUYING WOOD?

There are several things to consider before selecting a firewood dealer so your wood purchase is cost effective and minimizes indoor and outdoor pollution. First, check the Moisture Disclosure Program sponsored by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to see if there is a registered dealer near you. Otherwise, ask these important questions before you purchase firewood.

When Do You Cut Your Wood?

Find out from your seller when they cut their wood so you know if you need to cure it. Wood that has been recently cut or that is unsplit may require six months to a year to season before it is ready to burn depending on the wood type and where you live.

Where Do You Cut Your Wood?

Wood is being harvested illegally more and more. Don't contribute to the problem. Know where your wood is coming from. Make sure your wood seller has a permit if they are harvesting on state or federal lands.

What is the Moisture Content of the Wood I am Buying?

Conscientious sellers should indicate whether the wood you are purchasing is wet or dry. Fully cured firewood has a moisture content of less than 20 percent. However, unless it is actually measured with a moisture meter, it can be difficult to be certain. If the ends of the wood pieces are moist, and don't have cracks or checking, that is a sign of green or damp wood. Cracked or checked ends, and peeling bark indicate drier wood. Logs gray in color also indicate seasoned wood. Dry logs will feel light for their size and make a hollow sound when knocked together.

Why Should I Check First with the Moisture Disclosure Program?

By being registered with DEC, wood sellers agree to measure the moisture content according to DEC instructions, using a DEC-specified moisture meter AND they will give you the results in writing. Or they will document that the wood is wet. They will also include the date they cut the wood. So instead of asking a wood seller all of these questions, let the program do it for you!

What is the Acceptable Moisture Content of Firewood?

Wood will burn most efficiently if the moisture content is 20 percent or lower. A moisture content of more than 20 percent means the wood is not fully cured and it should be stacked, stored and covered for six months to a year, or until the moisture level drops below 20 percent. If you need to burn the wood right away, consider mixing it with manufactured, compressed wood logs that do not contain wax or non-wood products.

Is it Illegal to Sell Wet Wood?

No. Registered sellers are not limited to just dry wood. However, they must provide the moisture content of their product or document that it is wet or frozen.

Is Your Wood Dealer Registered with DEC?

Registered sellers can be found online at burnwise.alaska.gov. This list will also indicate if the seller delivers or if you must pick up your order.

SELLING WOOD?

The Moisture Disclosure Program lets wood sellers statewide advertise information about themselves to potential customers. The program is intended to provide consistent information to those buying wood.

Customers are then able to responsibly season and burn the wood they purchase. Sellers can show they didn't misrepresent the moisture content of the wood they sold. This prevents customers from blaming sellers for burning wet wood.

By registering with DEC potential buyers know that you have agreed to assist them by providing, in writing, the moisture content and other information of the wood you are selling. Below is additional information regarding the moisture disclosure program for wood sellers statewide.

How Much Does the Program Cost and is it Required?

Currently the program is voluntary and available statewide. It may become a requirement for commercial wood sellers to register if they sell wood to those burning wood in the Fairbanks non-attainment area if the area is re-designated as a Serious area and the department has issued a public notice. There is no charge to register with DEC. Register online by going to burnwise.alaska.gov.

What are the Registration Requirements?

To help with the online registration process you must have an Alaska business license, agree to use a DEC-approved moisture meter, agree to measure the moisture content according to department instructions, and fill out and sign a form with every sale.

Where Do I Get the DEC Forms?

DEC provides each seller free, triplicate forms and each vendor will have an exclusive vendor number assigned to them. This allows DEC to easily follow up on any concerns from wood buyers directly with the vendor that sold them the wood.

What are the Benefits of the Program?

Registering with the Moisture Disclosure Program entitles you to free listing on the DEC website, burnwise.alaska.gov. The website will give consumers your name, contact information, and whether you deliver wood or require pick up.

Where is the Program Available?

Firewood sellers statewide are eligible to participate in the program, which means you can expand your business to areas across Alaska.

