

Seasoned wood has been cut and left out to dry for a long period of time, reducing the amount of moisture and sap for optimal burning in a wood appliance. Proper seasoning affects heat output, cleaning ease, emissions and catalyst life. This guide explains how to season and store firewood.



#### FUEL

- Wood logs (refer to wood chart on following page) aged 12-16 months
- Best time to cut is after leaf fall, when amount of moisture in wood is lowest
- Do not use skids, pallets and treated or construction lumber; they can cause overfiring and damage to your stove or fireplace



#### PREPARING TO MEASURE MOISTURE

- Select 4-6 pieces from different areas of wood pile
- Split each piece just before measuring



#### USING THE MOISTURE METER

- Insert probes into the newly exposed surface and take a reading. No need to force it in, you're testing the surface.
- Use average of measurements taken
- 18% to 20% moisture is ideal (wetter will reduce heat; dryer will reduce burn time)
- 34% Moisture is considered too wet



#### RESULTS OF BURNING WET WOOD

- Low heat output
- Smoking
- Creosote build-up
- Chimney fires or worse



#### PROPER STORAGE & SEASONING

- Structure should be covered on top
- Structure should be open on sides to allow airflow
- Cross-stack wood evenly to allow airflow
- Do not wrap in plastic; it holds moisture in

# CHOOSING THE BEST WOOD FOR YOUR STOVE

## GOOD HEAT



**ASH**  
Steady flame  
Good heat output  
Best when seasoned at least one year



**BEECH**  
Dense wood  
Burns clean and hot  
Best when seasoned one to two years



**BLACK LOCUST**  
Burns efficiently  
Good heat output  
Good flame  
Best when seasoned at least one year



**HAWTHORN**  
Slow to burn  
Good heat output  
Best when seasoned one to two years



**SUGAR MAPLE (RECOMMENDED)**  
Burns efficiently  
Good heat output  
Good flame  
Best when seasoned at least one year

## FAST BURN



**ALDER**  
Burns fast  
Poor heat output  
Sweet burning aroma  
Best when seasoned at least one year



**CHESTNUT**  
Burns easily  
Burns at low heat  
Heavy smoke  
Best when seasoned at least two years



**POPLAR**  
Poor burn  
Heavy smoke  
Best when seasoned 6-12 months



**SYCAMORE**  
Good flame  
Moderate heat  
Best when seasoned at least one year

## SLOW BURN



**APPLE**  
Slow and steady burn  
Small flame size  
Does not spark or spit  
Best when seasoned at least two years



**CHERRY (RECOMMENDED)**  
Slow to burn  
Burns at medium heat  
Sweet burning aroma  
Best when seasoned at least one year



**ELM**  
Dense, hard wood  
Slow to get going  
Best when seasoned two years



**OAK (RECOMMENDED)**  
Dense wood  
Slow to burn  
Low flame  
Best when seasoned one to two years



**WALNUT**  
Slow to burn  
Limited smoke  
Best when seasoned at least one year



**YEW (RECOMMENDED)**  
Slow to burn  
Good heat output  
Sweet burning aroma  
Best when seasoned two-three years

## GOOD FOR KINDLING



**BIRCH**  
Quick to burn  
Burns bright and hot  
Best when seasoned 6-12 months



**CEDAR**  
Easy to burn  
Low heat output  
Heavy smoke and spark  
Best when seasoned 6-12 months



**PINE**  
High sap content  
Messy to burn  
Best when seasoned 6-12 months