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**New Hampshire**  
*Department of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food*

**Get Ready for Next Winter—Buy Your Firewood Now!**

**By**  
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**Division of Weights & Measures**

I don't know about you, but it seems I spend half of the year getting ready for winter. Well, two things are for sure about winter—you can't grow food and you can't dry wood well when the temperature is below freezing.

With this year's heating season just about over, most people's thoughts are now turning to the coming outdoor barbeque and beach season. Well, take a look at your wood pile. How much did you burn this year (a relatively mild winter)? Did you have enough to get you through? My recommendation is that now is the time to order for next winter.

The price for "seasoned" firewood ran about \$225 to \$250+ per cord this past season. The price for green wood was about \$160 per cord. The problem with buying "seasoned" wood during the middle of the winter is that you are paying a premium price for someone else's idea of wood that is ready to burn. On top of that, it may not be available.

Buying green wood now gives it time to season before the next heating season. Remember that green wood is primarily water (about 60% by weight) and one thing that all wood users have learned is that you can't burn water. If wood is delivered now, be aware of mud season and the risk of having your lawn rutted up if the truck runs over it. A cord of green hardwood ranges from 3,500 to 4,000 pounds. A couple of cords load could sink a truck to the axles on a wet lawn.

Stack your wood in a location where the wind and sun can get at it. With 16" length wood, plan on about 4-6 months of seasoning which should get the moisture content down to about 20%.

There is a sense of security when you look outdoors and see your winter's supply of firewood seasoning. Your feeling about winter is, "bring it on." The alternative is scrambling in December and hoping you can find an honest dealer with quality firewood at a decent price who can deliver it ASAP.

For more information, contact the Division of Weights & Measures, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042, or call 271-3700.

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