

Have you got the firewood in?

A shed full of dry firewood is like money in the bank, and can give you the security of knowing your home will be warm and dry when winter bites.

The problem with waiting until winter to get firewood is that often there is very little or no dry firewood available, and what is there is expensive.

Burning damp or wet wood with a moisture content greater than 25% is illegal and usually results in smoky chimneys, clogged up flues, complaints from neighbours and risks the attention of compliance officers. The best time to buy firewood was yesterday. Act now and getting stacking!

Be aware that not all firewood is equal.



Buy from a Good Wood Supplier for quality dry firewood.

Bay Firewood - 027 769 6348

Buyright Firewood - 021 127 8957

Quality Firewood - 027 449 0622

Richmond Wood and Coal Limited - 03 544 6473

Wholesale Firewood - 03 546 9595 Or 027 922 9611

It's best to avoid buying from roadside suppliers, or buying wood sold as "rain wet" as you may find that it is too wet to burn until the following year, and burning it could result in complaints from neighbours.

What is the best wood to buy?

Not all firewood is created equal. Softwoods such as pine and Douglas fir dry faster and are great for starting fires.

Hardwoods such as gum (eucalypts) and manuka take much longer to dry, in some cases up to five years,

but they burn hotter and produce more heat.

Avoid woods like old-man pine, it contains lots of resins, and no matter how dry it is, or what type of fire you burn it in, it will still create lots of black smoke. The resin clog up flues, which affects the performance and risks chimney fires.

How to keep your firewood dry

If possible, store your wood in a woodshed, but external stacks can work too, as long as you stack it so it is off the ground, covered, and air can flow in from the sides.



- Stack firewood loosely enough so that air can blow through it.
- Secure your stack, as wood pieces will shrink and shift as they dry.
- Split your wood – smaller pieces dry faster.
- For external stacks, use a tarpaulin, corrugated iron, or any kind of waterproof cover over the top of the wood, but make sure it is tied down so it doesn't blow off.
- Allow airflow to the sides, so that moisture can escape.
- Keep the wood off the ground using bricks, wood slats or pallets to prevent damp seeping up, and allow airflow under the wood.

You can build a woodshed without Building Consent if:

- It is less than 10m² in floor area or 30m² if built of light-weight material.
- It is one storey high – floor maximum one metre above ground, maximum shed height of 3.5 metres above floor level.
- The distance between the shed and a boundary or any residential building is greater than the height of the shed.

For details visit nelson.govt.nz/building-exemptions

For more information about building a woodshed, contact Council's building control officer:

P. 03 265 6983 E. duty.buildingofficer@ncc.govt.nz

Five easy steps to a smoke free woodburner



Stack dry wood under shelter with plenty of good ventilation



Have your flue professionally cleaned and your woodburner checked



Use lots of newspaper and dry kindling to light the fire



Let the fire get going well before you add more wood



Check for smoke after 15 mins to make sure you are burning right