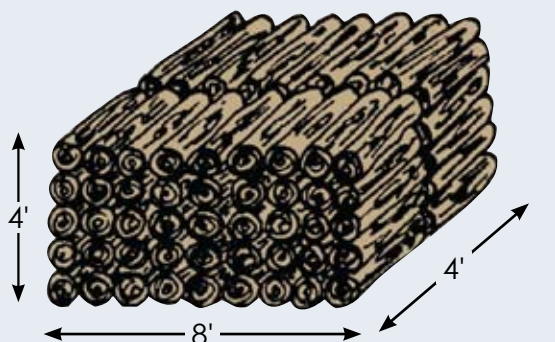


Avoid Getting Burned When Buying Firewood

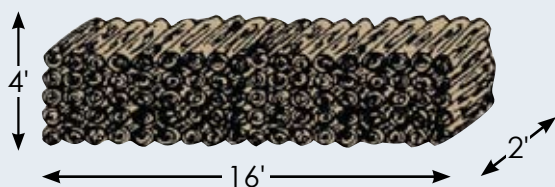


How To Measure Firewood

Firewood is sold by a measurement called a "cord." A cord must equal 128 cubic feet. To be sure you have a cord, stack the wood neatly by placing the wood in a line or a row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, making sure that the wood is compact and has as few gaps as possible. Then measure the stack. If the width times the height times the length equals 128 cubic feet, you have a cord of firewood.



$4' \times 4' \times 8' = 128$ Cubic Feet



$2' \times 4' \times 16' = 128$ Cubic Feet

Get What You Pay For

How To Protect Yourself When Buying Firewood

When you buy firewood make sure to get a receipt which shows the seller's name and address; as well as the price, amount and kind of wood purchased. If possible, get the seller's phone number and write down the license plate number of the delivery vehicle.

When the wood is delivered, ask the seller to stack it (you may have to pay extra for this service) or stack the wood yourself. Measure the wood before using any. If the cubic measurement indicates that you did not receive the correct volume, contact the seller before you burn any wood.

Words That May Indicate You Are Not Getting Proper Measurement

A cord, like other measurements such as a foot, a gallon, or a ton, is defined by law. A seller may not legitimately use terms such as "truckload," "face cord," "rack" or "pile" because these terms have no legally defined meaning and, therefore, you have no way of determining how much firewood you are actually receiving. If a seller uses such terms it should alert you to a possible problem. Wood can only be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord.

What To Do If You Think You've Been Short-Changed

If the seller can't or won't correct the problem, contact your state weights and measures authority before you burn any wood. It is also helpful to document the possible shortage by taking a picture of the stacked wood. Your weights and measures authority can be located in the government section of your phone book or at www.ncwm.net/content/state-directors



Firewood offered for distribution in Nebraska must meet the requirements of the Nebraska Weights and Measures Act. This Act has adopted by reference into law the standards found within the *Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities* as adopted by The National Conference on Weights and Measures.

Those standards specific to firewood include:

2.4. Fireplace and Stove Wood. -- For the purpose of this regulation, this section shall apply to the sale of all wood, natural and processed, for use as fuel or flavoring.
(Amended 1999)

2.4.1. Definitions

2.4.1.1. Fireplace and stove wood. -- Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other wood, natural or processed, split or not split, advertised, offered for sale, or sold for use as fuel.
(Amended 1991)

2.4.1.2. Cord. -- The amount of wood that is contained in a space of 128 cubic feet when the wood is ranked and well stowed. For the purpose of this regulation, "ranked and well stowed" shall be construed to mean that pieces of wood are placed in a line or row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, and stacked in a compact manner.

2.4.1.3. Representation. -- A "representation" shall be construed to mean any advertisement, offering, invoice, or the like that pertains to the sale of fireplace or stove wood.

2.4.1.4. Flavoring chips. -- Any kindling, logs, boards, timbers, or other natural or processed, split or unsplit wood that is advertised, offered for sale, or sold for flavoring smoked or barbecued foods. (Added 1999)

2.4.2. Identity. -- A representation may include a declaration of identity that indicates the species group (Example: 50 percent hickory, 50 percent miscellaneous softwood). Such a representation shall indicate, within 10 percent accuracy, the percentages of each group.

2.4.3. Quantity. -- Fireplace and stovewood shall be advertised, offered for sale, and sold only by measure, using the term "cord" and fractional parts of a cord or the cubic meter, except that:

(a) Packaged natural wood. -- Natural wood offered for sale in packaged form in quantities less than 0.45 m³ (1/8 cord or 16 cu ft) shall display the quantity in terms of cubic meters, to include decimal fractions of cubic meters; or cubic feet, to include fractions of cubic feet.

(b) Artificial compressed or processed logs. -- A single fireplace log shall be sold by weight, and packages of such individual logs shall be sold by weight plus count.

(c) Stove wood pellets or chips. -- Pellets or chips not greater than 15 cm (6 in) in any dimension shall be sold by weight. This requirement does not apply to flavoring chips. (Amended 1976 and 1991)

(d) Flavoring chips. Flavoring chips shall be sold by volume. (Added 1998)

2.4.4. Prohibition of Terms. -- The terms "face cord," "rack," "pile," "truckload," or terms of similar import shall not be used when advertising, offering for sale, or selling wood for use as fuel.

2.4.5. Delivery ticket or sales invoice. -- A delivery ticket or sales invoice shall be presented by the seller to the purchaser whenever any nonpackaged fireplace or stove wood is sold. The delivery ticket or sales invoice shall contain at least the following information:

- (a) the name and address of the vendor;
- (b) the name and address of the purchaser;
- (c) the date delivered;
- (d) the quantity delivered and the quantity upon which the price is based, if this differs from the delivered quantity;
- (e) the price of the amount delivered; and
- (f) the identity in the most descriptive terms commercially practicable, including any quality representation made in connection with the sale. (Added 1975)