

Video Title: Burning Clean: It Starts with the Wood

The video provides guidance on how to gather, process, and season firewood correctly to ensure clean burning and efficient heating.

Key Content:

- **Introduction:** Heating your home as cleanly and efficiently as possible with a wood stove starts in the forest.
- **Permits and Season:** Ensure you have permission to gather firewood and a permit if needed. It's best to gather firewood in the spring to allow for ample drying time before use in the fall.
- **Drying Time:** It takes at least six months to season wood properly, and even longer for dense hardwoods.
- **Safety Warning:** Falling and bucking trees is dangerous; ensure you have adequate training and safety equipment.
- **Wood Size:** The wood should be cut to fit the size of your firebox. Pieces should be at least 7.5 cm shorter than the firebox for proper handling and stoking.
- **Splitting the Wood:** Aim for a variety of sizes between 7.5 cm and 15 cm. Smaller pieces are for starting the fire, while larger ones are for a long, steady burn. Overly large pieces tend to smolder, creating more smoke and less heat.
- **Kindling:** Softwoods like cedar and pine work best for kindling as they split and ignite easily.
- **Seasoning and Stacking:**
 - Stack wood in the open where sun and wind can speed up the drying process.
 - An open-sided shed with plenty of ventilation is also a good location.
 - **Do not stack firewood directly on the ground**, as it hinders drying and allows rot.
 - Stack in alternating directions for support.
 - **Coverage:** At the end of the summer, for long-term storage, you can move wood into a shed or cover it with a tarp, but leave the sides of the pile partially exposed to the air so drying can continue.

- **Importance of Dry Wood:** Wet wood results in less heat and more smoke.
- **Checking for Dryness:**
 - **Moisture Meter:** Properly seasoned wood should have a moisture content between 15% and 20%.
 - **Visual Check:** Seasoned wood will have cracked or "checked" ends.
 - **Sound Check:** Tapping two pieces together should produce a hollow sound for seasoned wood. A dull FUD indicates the wood is still moist.

By burning only fully seasoned wood, you'll produce less smoke, get more heat, and have less creosote clogging your chimney.

Brought to you by Fraser Basin Council

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