

**BUY IT WHERE
YOU BURN IT.**



Moving Firewood Can Spread Invasive Species

Why is moving firewood a problem?

Tree-killing insects and diseases can hitchhike in firewood. These insects and diseases can't move far on their own, but when people move firewood they can jump hundreds of miles. New infestations destroy forests, property values, and can cost huge sums of money to control.

How far is too far to move firewood? And what exactly is "local" firewood?

As a very general rule of thumb, 50 miles is too far to move firewood, and 10 miles or less is best. When we say local firewood, we are referring to the closest convenient source of wood that you can find. That might be from down the street, or cut in a state forest within your county. In many states there are rules, regulations, and quarantines that clearly state how far is too far. Always acquaint yourself with local rules and regulations when transporting wood from one jurisdiction to another. **Visit the map at www.DontMoveFirewood.org/map** to help you figure out how far is too far in your exact area.

My firewood has no bugs, holes, burrows, sawdust, or other weird looking stuff on it. Is it OK to transport it?

Even the experts can't always see a couple of pin-head sized insect eggs, or a few microscopic fungus spores, in a pile of wood. These tiny threats are enough to destroy an entire ecosystem. **Never assume wood that "looks safe" is OK to move-** it is next to impossible for anyone to inspect firewood that closely.

What kind of firewood is safe to move over long distances?

Generally there are two types of firewood that are safe to move. The first is packaged heat treated firewood with a USDA APHIS compliance seal. The other is packaged heat treated firewood with a specific state inspection seal. Firewood that is simply labeled "kiln-dried" is quite different, and should not be considered safe to move.

If I burn all of my wood completely, is it OK to bring it from far away?

While this might seem reasonable at first, the answer is still no. There are simply too many unknowns. What if a little chip of bark falls unnoticed onto the forest floor- and that chip contains invasive insect larvae? Or what if there is a sudden rainstorm, washing fungus spores off the wood, out of the back of your pickup, and into the grass? Even if you intend to burn all the wood completely, you still need to make sure it is locally sourced, or packaged heat treated, firewood. **You should not be moving untreated firewood long distances, and it is often illegal to do so.**

Can I cut wood from my backyard and take it camping if there are no quarantines or pest alerts in my area?

This is not a good idea. Pest infestations can take years to be recognized by the authorities- sometimes trees appear perfectly healthy for years despite harboring harmful organisms. By the time the tree looks sick, or the quarantine is announced, you could have spread a tree-killing infestation to all your favorite campsites.

Why are non-native insects and diseases so much worse for trees than the native forest pests?

Native trees have defenses against the native insects and diseases that they've been living with for millions of years. Likewise, native predators eat native insects and that keeps their numbers in check, too. Non-native forest insects and diseases have both no natural defenses against them within the trees, and little to no predators and parasites in their new homes. Taken together, that means the non-native insects and diseases can reproduce really fast and become out of control, killing millions of trees in their wake.

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