

**BUY LOCAL.  
BURN LOCAL.**

[dontmovefirewood.org](http://dontmovefirewood.org)



# Firewood as a Pathway for Invasive Species

## Questions and Answers

**1. Why shouldn't I move firewood?** Firewood can carry invasive insects and diseases that can kill native trees. New infestations of these insects and diseases can destroy our forests, lessen property values, and cost a great deal to monitor, manage, and control.

**2. Which firewood-related pests should I be concerned about in the Pacific Northwest?** Insects such as Emerald ash borer, Sirex woodwasp, and Asian longhorned beetle, or diseases, such as Sudden Oak Death, are carried by firewood.

**3. Why are non-native insects and diseases so much worse than the native ones?**

Native trees have evolved to deal with local insects and diseases. Likewise, native predators eat native insects and that keeps their numbers in check. Non-native insects and diseases have few predators, and the native trees have few natural defenses against them. Non-native insects and diseases reproduce quickly and out compete native species.

**4. What are other states and regions in the United States doing about this issue?**

Some Midwest and East Coast states have quarantines that prevent you from moving firewood more than 50 miles, others don't allow you to move wood from county to county, and some states don't allow firewood to be transported from other states.

**5. My firewood has no visible signs of insect or disease infestation. There are no bugs, holes, burrows, or sawdust. Is it OK to transport it?** Tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungus spores, can elude experts. These tiny threats are enough to destroy an entire ecosystem. Never assume wood that "looks safe" is safe to move.

**6. What can I do with the fallen wood and brush from my property?** Firewood, brush, and debris from your property pose no threat if you *don't* move it very far. Composting, chipping, burning, or transporting it to a local disposal facility are acceptable ways of dealing with wood on your property. Moving wood material long distances increases the risk.

**7. How far is too far?** A good rule of thumb is "The shorter the distance you move firewood, the better."

**8. How should I dispose of my firewood if I accidentally move it a long distance?** Burn it quickly and completely. The sooner and faster you burn the wood, the less risk you'll pose to local live trees. Make sure to also rake up any dropped leaves, bark, twigs or other debris and burn them, as well.

**9. Where can I find out about firewood information in the Pacific Northwest?** The invasive species councils in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho have websites with information about firewood. In addition, each Department of Agriculture has information about best management practices or rules and regulations relating to firewood.

**10. What can I do to reduce the threat of firewood-carrying invasive species?**

- Don't Move Firewood: Buy It Where You Burn It.
- Ask your firewood seller where he/she obtained the wood. If it isn't nearby, or it is unknown, consider obtaining your wood from another firewood seller.
- Find out if your state has a safe firewood certification process. If it does, ask to see the seller's certificate.