

# How To Get All The Firewood You Need To Heat Your Home Without Spending A Penny

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With the cost of living skyrocketing in areas all throughout the country, many consumers are seeking out cheap, or preferably free, ways to curb their utility bills. When it comes to heating your home throughout the winter months, a wood burning stove effectively warms your living spaces without burning through your bank account. To further deepen your monthly energy costs, stop buying your firewood and turn to these completely free, and completely legal, ways of gathering perfectly seasoned firewood.

## Tree Surgeons/Arborists

Most tree surgeons (Arborists) are clever enough to realize that logging, seasoning and selling their hardwood waste is a no brainer. However there's only really any value in hardwood logs, as this is what most people want to burn. This leaves a lot of fresh softwood being wasted or chipped for biomass (that usually just gets taken of their hands in bulk for little or no money). If you are willing to burn softwood (and if it is free then you should be willing!), it's not too difficult to find a local tree surgeon/arborist who will be happy to dump loads of cords/tree rings on your driveway for free. All

you need to do is cut it up and season it. Contact some of your local companies and ask. Some will ignore you or say no. Some may offer to deliver loads for \$20 etc, but some will also be happy to help you out for free, as it helps them out.

*(We do this and get all the firewood to heat our home for free. As we have built relationships with a few local companies, they also sometimes deliver hardwood loads as well. If they are cutting several trees close to us, it is easier for them to quickly dump loads with us, rather than travel further to their depot each time during the day.)*

## **Construction Tree Debris**

As construction crews clear the land for new developments etc, there may be a significant amount of heavy brush or tree branches left in their wake. While some construction companies sell wood to firewood merchants or lumber yards, smaller branches and brush are often available free of charge as long as you receive permission from the construction manager. It is always worth asking when you see new developments in your area.

## **eBay, Gumtree & FreeCycle**

Everyday there are people in your area giving away waste wood (pallets etc) and wood from trees and bushes they have cut down on their properties. People without wood burning stoves and fireplaces are only too happy to give their wood away for free, rather than having to dispose of it themselves. All you have to do is go around and pick up the wood. Check eBay, Gumtree and Freecycle and other similar websites, and search in your areas for firewood and logs etc. Some people will charge a small amount, but most are only too happy to have someone to come over and take it away for them.

## **Gather Dead Tree Branches**

Often times, dead tree branches are found scattered throughout residential or commercial properties. If you notice dead, or even dying, trees lining a property, ask the owner if you can gather some of these branches. In many cases, property owners don't have the need for the wood, or the financial resources to have the trees removed. Therefore, by gathering these potentially hazardous tree branches you're not only stockpiling your firewood supply, but also helping out a neighbour.

## **Post Storm Tree Debris**

After a major thunderstorm, tree branches tend to accumulate along the side of the road or in yards of commercial and residential properties. While most property owners simply throw away storm debris, ask the property owner if you can help collect and remove the debris with the premise of keeping some, or all, of the wood. If you live in an area that frequently sees windstorms, this could

be the sole source of your firewood supply.

## **Wooden Pallets**

Commercial retail stores and warehouses use wooden pallets for a myriad of reasons. While many businesses reuse pallets, once damaged, or once their stock of pallets becomes too large, many are open to donating to local residents for firewood purposes. The size, shape and portability of wooden pallets make them a perfect source for firewood, especially kindling. Just be sure to check they are pressure treated, rather than chemically treated. Most are these days, but it is better to check. A quick Google of the stamps on the pallets will tell you.

## **Sawmills**

Many sawmills actively search for ways to reduce their overhead, which includes disposal costs associated with end cut removal. Contact your local saw mill and ask about pick up times for scrap lumber. While you're there, don't forget to pick up a bag or two of sawdust, which may be used as kindling.

(Image from: Wikipedia)