

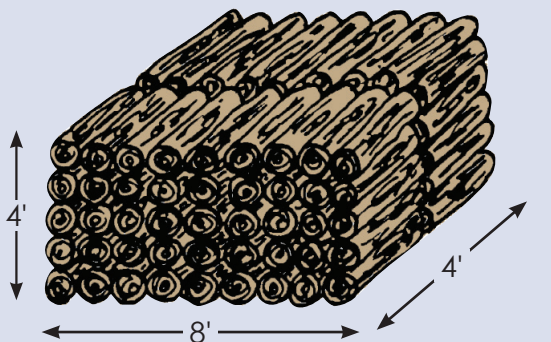


Avoid Getting Burned When Buying Firewood

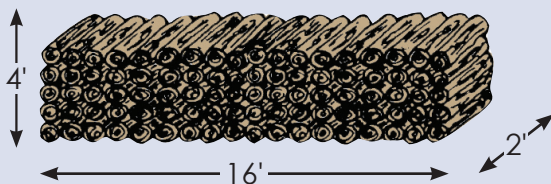


How to Measure Firewood

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

How to protect yourself when buying firewood

Always get a receipt. Verify it 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.

How to determine 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 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'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.

