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Take Precautions when Purchasing Firewood



Now that the colder weather is upon us, many Coloradans are turning to the use of firewood as a means of reducing heating costs. As a result firewood sales are increasing throughout the State.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) strongly recommends firewood be purchased from a reputable dealer. When purchasing firewood in bulk, consumers should obtain the seller's name and business address. Bulk firewood sellers in Colorado must provide a receipt with this information as well as the price, amount, and type of wood.

For bulk sales, firewood is sold by the cord or fractional cord. The amount of wood in a cord consists of a neatly stacked volume of wood that equals 128 cubic feet. For example, one cord equals a stack of wood that is 4 feet wide by 4 feet high by 8 feet long. Firewood cannot be sold using terms such as truckload, face cord, rick, fireplace cord, or pile.

Bundled firewood is commonly sold at grocery and convenience stores. The correct method of sale for bundles is the cubic foot. The actual amount of wood must meet the quantity declaration. Bundles must be properly labeled with net volume, wood type, and responsible party contact information. CDA inspectors verify compliance at retail locations throughout Colorado.

Each year, the CDA investigates numerous complaints involving misrepresentation or mislabeling of firewood. To ensure that they get what they pay for, consumers should be knowledgeable about the product and business that sells the firewood.

Contact the CDA, Division of Inspection and Consumer Services, Measurement Standards office at (303) 477-4220 with questions, or for help with disputes regarding the sale of firewood. Firewood suppliers can be found under "Fuel Wood" in the Forest Product section of the [Colorado Food and Agricultural Directory](#) on the CDA website.

The CDA also participates with other agencies in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program which involves the early detection of exotic pests that threaten Colorado's agriculture and environment. Such pests may be found on firewood, and if transported, can result in the spread of harmful insects and the destruction of trees. Further information regarding how you can protect Colorado's forests can be found at the [Division of Plant Industry](#) website or by clicking the "Burn It Where You Buy It!" link for more details.