Wood is one of the most abundant and useful natural resources on earth. One-third of the United States is forested. Forests cover 45 percent of New Jersey. To sustain this renewable natural resource, it must be managed with proven regeneration methods. These methods include harvesting mature, diseased, and hazard trees.

Benefits of cutting trees for firewood:
- Enhances habitats for different species of animals and plants
- Improves forest health; trees resist insects and disease
- Sustains a healthy forest resource that provides clean air and water
- Reduces wildfire hazards
- Opens up the canopy of the forest for new growth
- Reduces competition for water and sunlight among existing trees
- Allows healthier trees to remove more carbon from the atmosphere and produce more oxygen
- Heats your home with a renewable resource

10 Steps to Efficiently Burn Wood

1. Choose the proper size stove
2. Buy the most efficient design you can afford
3. Burn only fuel designed for your stove
4. Burn seasoned wood
5. Make fires small and hot
6. Install a stack thermometer
7. Remove excess ashes
8. Insulate your house
9. Clean your smokestack
10. Inspect your stove twice a year

Heat Your Home with a Renewable Natural Resource.

The Homeowner Firewood Program provides New Jersey residents with an inexpensive firewood source and an outdoor recreational opportunity during the fall and winter months.
**FIREWOOD HARVESTING**

With the price of oil on the rise, many homeowners have begun to use a woodstove or fireplace as the primary or supplemental heat sources in their homes. As shown in the chart below, it would take 135 gallons of oil to equal the available heat of 1 cord of Red Oak.

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- **Ear Muffs**
- **Hard Hat**
- **Face Shield**
- **Safety Boots**
- **Leather Gloves**
- **Leg Protection**

**Fresh cut (green) firewood is heavy. Plan accordingly.**

**Weight of a Cord of Green Wood**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>5600 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>5700 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>5300 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>4300 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### “Season” Wood to Maximize Efficiency

Dry wood is lighter, produces more energy, starts easier, and is safer to use. To season wood, split and stack in a sunny location. Cover so airflow is not restricted. It takes at least one summer to season wood properly.

This chart compares the energy produced by wood of differing moisture contents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moisture content</th>
<th>Energy (by volume)</th>
<th>Energy (by weight)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0% (oven dry)</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% (air dry)</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% (green)</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% (wet)</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How Much Wood Do You Need Per Year?

- **Recreational Use**: 1/2 cord
- **Partial/Supplemental Home Heating**: 1½ - 4 cords
- **Total Home Heating w/ high efficiency stove**: 4½ - 10 cords

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**A Cord of Wood Is:**

**4 ft x 4 ft x 8 ft**