

## **HOW TO BUY OR PREPARE GOOD FIREWOOD**



Whatever wood species you use, it will burn more efficiently and be more convenient to use if it is properly seasoned. Here are some tips for firewood preparation.

- 1. Very hard woods like oak and maple are not good fuel for relatively mild weather in spring and fall because their high density makes controlling heat output more difficult.**
- 2. Softer woods like poplar, aspen, willow, spruce and pine are better when heat demand is low because they light easily, burn quickly and don't leave a long lasting charcoal bed.**
- 3. Firewood should be processed in early spring to be ready for burning that fall (exceptions-large pieces of hard wood like oak may take more than the summer months to season, and drying in damp climates can take longer.**
- 4. Piece length should be at least 3" shorter than the firebox.**
- 5. Shorter pieces are easier to handle and make fire maintenance easier; 14" to 16" is a good length.**
- 6. Split the logs to a variety of sizes, from 3" to 6" at the largest cross sectional dimension. Most commercial firewood is not split small enough for convenient fire management.**
- 7. The larger the stove or furnace, the larger the pieces can be, but never larger than 8" diameter.**
- 8. Wood should be stacked in an open area exposed to sun and wind for the summer. Green wood will not season properly in a wood shed or in deep shade.**
- 9. Stack the wood on rails to keep it off the ground.**
- 10. When seasoned, usually by late September, the wood can be moved to winter bulk storage where it should be fully sheltered from rain and snow.**
- 11. Bring in wood to warm up before burning, but only one or two week's supply at a time.**