



Burn Bright

Guide to storing firewood

How to do it legally

You can build a shed without Building Consent if:

- It is less than 10m² in floor area.
- It is one storey high – floor maximum 1 metre above ground, maximum shed height of 3.5 metres above floor level.
- It is not positioned closer than the sheds own height to a boundary or any residential building.

For more information about building a shed, contact Council's building control officer:

P. 03 265 6983 **E.** duty.buildingofficer@ncc.govt.nz

For further information about firewood or wood burners, contact:

Nelson City Council Environmental Programmes Advisor Richard Frizzell

P. 03 546 0423 **E.** richard.frizzell@ncc.govt.nz



Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson
03 546 0200 • nelson.govt.nz

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 Nelson City Council
te kaunihera o whakatū



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Summer is the best time to buy and store your firewood, so that you have dry, efficient-burning wood for next winter.

How to keep warm

Modern wood burners need dry wood to burn efficiently. Even slightly damp wood can burn inefficiently, wasting fuel and giving off less heat, so making sure you have plenty of dry wood at the beginning of winter is key to getting plenty of good cheap heat from your burner. Buy your wood in summertime, from a Good Wood supplier, then stack and cover well so it is dry and ready to burn when you need it.

How to stack your wood

- Stack firewood loosely enough so that air can blow through it.
- Secure your stack, as wood pieces will shrink and shift as they dry.
- Split your wood – smaller pieces dry faster.
- Soft woods like Pine, Fir and Macrocarpa normally take 6–12 months to dry.
- Hardwoods like Gum and Manuka can take 18+ months to dry.
- Firewood needs to have less than 25% moisture content to burn efficiently.

How to keep your wood pile dry

- Use a tarpaulin, corrugated iron, or any kind of water proof cover over the top of the wood, but make sure it is tied down so it doesn't blow off.
- Allow air flow to the sides, so that moisture can escape.
- Keep the wood off the ground using bricks, wood slats or pallets to prevent damp seeping up, and allow air flow under the wood.