

# Domestic firewood

## Domestic Firewood Collection on Public Land

### Permits

Permits are no longer required to collect firewood for domestic use from State forests and those parks where collection is allowed.

### Collection areas

Domestic firewood collection is only allowed in designated firewood collection areas during a firewood collection season. These areas will be clearly identifiable on the ground and will be marked by official signs.

Designated domestic firewood collection areas are located, where possible, to avoid sites of environmental and cultural significance, and to make use of the by-products of activities such as commercial timber harvesting and road construction.

Domestic firewood collection areas will be displayed on DELWP's external website. To view the maps and for directions (via the Forest Explorer system) to a designated domestic firewood collection areas visit [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood)

DELWP's Customer Service Centre can provide directions or post a domestic firewood collection area map.

### Seasons

Firewood collection is allowed during two statewide firewood seasons:

- - autumn season (1 March to 30 June)
- - spring season (1 September to 30 November)

If there is a fire danger risk before 30 November or after 1 March, the relevant firewood collection season may be shortened. The seasons are consistent across the state and aim to minimise risks to people, the environment and infrastructure by avoiding firewood collection during winter and during periods of highest fire hazard.

### How much firewood can I collect?

2 m<sup>3</sup> is the maximum volume of firewood which may be collected per person per day.

A maximum limit of 16m<sup>3</sup> per household per financial year applies.

Some households in regional areas rely on firewood for winter energy. Please consider others when deciding how much firewood to collect.

4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM) is the maximum vehicle and trailer combination weight that can be used in a domestic firewood collection area.

### How to nominate someone to collect domestic firewood on your behalf

If you are unable to collect firewood for domestic use, you can nominate someone to collect on your behalf, by printing and completing the nomination form. The nominee must carry the completed nomination form while collecting firewood on behalf of another. Nomination forms are available at DELWP offices and on the website [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood)

Remember, you may only collect firewood for domestic use.

### Roadside collection

Roadside collection of firewood in State forests is only allowed in a designated domestic firewood collection area.

### Types of firewood to use

Firewood should be as dry as possible for burning. Green (or 'wet') wood is difficult to light, gives off a lot of smoke and produces less heat.

Firewood collected from a State forest is likely to be green. Green wood burns well if cut and stored correctly for 12 months.

### Safety

Please take care of yourself and others at all times when collecting firewood. In particular:

- avoid collecting firewood when conditions are wet, windy or hot
- assess your work area for hazards before you start work

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- avoid working near hazards
- avoid working alone or with children
- use well maintained equipment
- be trained and competent in the use of firewood collection equipment (including chainsaws)
- wear appropriate safety clothing and equipment
- carry a first aid kit

**Hazards** found in designated firewood collection areas may include but are not limited to:

- broken overhead branches
- dead standing trees
- uneven or slippery ground conditions
- vehicles
- mine shafts
- snakes and stinging insects

Please refer to [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au) for more information on safety in forest operations

## Legislation governing domestic firewood collection

The *Forests Act 1958* and the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* (for Shepparton Regional Park) and associated regulations establish the rules for domestic firewood collection without a permit.

There are significant penalties for offences under those Acts, in particular fines up to \$7380 or up to one year imprisonment or both.

### If you suspect illegal activity

Contact DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186. For further information please visit [www.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au) or call the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Further information is also available at Parks Victoria offices located near domestic firewood collection areas.

## Rules when collecting domestic firewood

- Only collect firewood from within a designated domestic firewood collection area and during a domestic firewood season.
- Only collect fallen or felled trees.
- Do not collect more than 2m<sup>3</sup> per person per day. Note: 1m<sup>3</sup> is approximately a 1.8m (6') x 1.2m (4') trailer of split firewood neatly stacked to a height of 0.5m (20").
- Do not collect more than 16m<sup>3</sup> per household per financial year.
- It is illegal to sell firewood collected from domestic collection areas or to use the wood in a commercial enterprise.
- Heavy vehicles (> 4.5 tonne gross vehicle mass) (including any trailer) must not be brought into or used in a domestic firewood collection area.
- Heavy machinery (e.g. a bulldozer, crane, excavator, forwarder, hydraulic log splitter, saw bench, skidder, skid steer loader or tractor) must not be brought into or used in a firewood collection area.
- Do not tow or winch fallen or felled trees along the ground.
- Do not collect firewood within 20m of a watercourse.
- Do not drive your vehicle off formed roads or tracks.
- Do not cut, break off or damage standing trees or shrubs (living or dead).
- Do not take away fallen or felled trees that are visibly hollow or growing moss or fungi with a coverage of >50%.
- Do not damage, disturb or destroy native flora and fauna.
- Do not injure, damage, deface, desecrate, destroy or remove cultural heritage sites and artefacts.
- Take all litter with you when you leave.
- Do not enter the forest on days of Code Red Fire Danger rating.
- Do not use chainsaws on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Use only chainsaws fitted with a proper exhaust and spark arrester.
- Only refill chainsaw oil and fuel on an impermeable surface.

**DELWP conducts regular patrols of firewood collection areas. Please ensure you abide by collection rules as significant penalties apply. Video surveillance cameras may be installed in firewood collection areas.**

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## How much firewood do vehicles and trailers hold?

2 m<sup>3</sup> is the maximum volume of firewood which may be collected per person per day.

Vehicle and trailer combinations can hold differing amounts of firewood.

The way the firewood is stacked will define how much wood fits into a certain vehicle and trailer combination.

Split and tightly stacked firewood increases the volume of firewood within a vehicle or trailer. This method of stacking firewood will increase the weight. Make sure firewood collected does not exceed the vehicle or trailer manufacture's load specifications.

Note: 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM) is the maximum vehicle and trailer combination weight that can be used in a domestic firewood collection area.

1m<sup>3</sup> is approximately a 1.8m (6') x 1.2m (4') trailer of split firewood neatly stacked to a height of 0.5m (20").



This image is displaying 30cm long logs of firewood stacked into the tray of a utility. The tray volume is 1.34m<sup>3</sup> and it holds **0.52m<sup>3</sup>** of un-split firewood.



This image is displaying a tandem trailer with inside dimensions of 240cm long, 151cm wide and 38.5cm deep. This trailer is holding **0.68m<sup>3</sup>** of split logs, which are into either ½ or ¼ blocks and roughly thrown into the trailer, level with the top of the trailer.



This image is displaying a tandem trailer with inside dimensions of 240cm long, 151cm wide and 38.5cm deep. This trailer is holding **1m<sup>3</sup>**. The split logs have been split into either ½ or ¼ blocks, with one small dimension whole block included and carefully stacked level with the top of the trailer.

## Habitat

During the collection of firewood from State forests and those parks where collection is allowed, it is important that you follow the rules to ensure the protection of the many natural values of the forests.

When collecting domestic firewood do not collect:

- visibly hollow logs
- logs covered in moss or fungi with a coverage of more than 50% (see photos)



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## Water

State forests and parks play an important part in protecting our waterways.

It is important to take care around watercourses to ensure that firewood collection activities do not have a negative impact on water quality.

Do not collect firewood within 20m of a watercourse.

The four images below display moss covered logs with a coverage that is greater than 50%



*Photo by Amanda Williams*



*Photo by Amanda Williams*



*Photo by Amanda Williams*



*Photo by Amanda Williams*

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