



# Wood Moisture Content Tracking for Firewood Banks

## Why Dry Wood?

- More efficient
- Less creosote build-up
- Less stove maintenance
- Better for the air

## Signs of Dry Wood

- Cracked and checkered ends
- Light weight for its size
- Moisture Meter reading of 20% or less

Making sure that the wood you provide to firewood bank recipients is dry is essential to ensure efficient and safe use of firewood unless the recipient has time to season it. Typically, after wood is cut, it should be split, stacked, covered, and allowed to dry down for approximately 6 – 12 months. The length of drying time needed is determined by the species of tree harvested, time of year, your local climate, and other factors.

Here’s how you can use a moisture meter to make sure you are distributing dry wood (moisture content below 20%):

1. From a single cord of wood, pick 3-6 different pieces of wood from various spots in the cord.
2. Split each piece and measure the newly split side by inserting the probes of the moisture meter into the wood grain in the middle of the piece (not the end).
3. Average the different moisture meter content readings.
4. If the average is at or below 20%, you are safe to distribute your wood!

Moisture Content Log			Moisture Content Log		
Cord	Moisture Content	Date:	Cord	Moisture Content Percentage	Date:
Piece 1		Expected Distribution Date:	Piece 1		Expected Distribution Date:
Piece 2		Person Recording MC:	Piece 2		Person Recording MC:
Piece 3		Comments:	Piece 3		Comments:
Piece 4			Piece 4		
Piece 5			Piece 5		
Piece 6			Piece 6		

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Piece 4			Piece 4		
Piece 5			Piece 5		
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