

RESOURCES FOR FIREWOOD BANKS

SHED BUILDING

This resource sheet provides ideas for affordable firewood sheds for both the recipients of your wood, and for your wood bank to store and season wood before you distribute it. Most firewood banks don't have resources to help their recipients build sheds, but all firewood banks should encourage their wood recipients to keep the wood under cover so that it can keep seasoning and does not absorb more moisture. It is the responsibility of the firewood bank to use a moisture meter and season your wood (below 20% moisture) before distributing it. Remember, dry wood produces more heat, less smoke, and less creosote in chimneys.

One of the best ways to season wood is to split it as soon as possible and keep it covered. In Western regions where the climate is very dry, covering wood is less important but in the Midwest and Eastern US, wood can take at least a year to be dry enough (20 moisture content or less) to burn. We encourage banks to include covered storage materials in their budgets and we list below both pre-made sheds and designs that can hold up to 50 cords and cost less than \$5,000.

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to send us new ideas that we can use as we update this resource sheet.

WOOD STORAGE FOR 5 – 50 CORDS

- 5 cord (8 x 16')
- 10 cord (8 x 24')
- 8 cord (8x 20')
- 20 cord (12 x 36')

- Large firewood retailer, drive-through shed (50 cord+)

This picture shows a drive through shed for loading and unloading. Some of our firewood banks have used conveyers to move wood onto trucks or into piles for stacking.



- Storing firewood under solar arrays

This example comes out of Massachusetts from the Montague Wood Bank. These 30 individual bins hold 14 cords, all sheltered by a solar array.



Photo credit: Sean Mahoney

- Covered, Round Covered Shelter

A vinyl-tarped shed, may be economical but may not hold up well in windy or snowy conditions. The rounded top may make loading and unloading wood difficult.



- Steel Carports

There are lots of examples of carports. Something like the ones below may be economical options for a drying shed.

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3



CONTAINERS AND TOTES

- IBC (Intermediate Bulk Container) Totes

Intermediate bulk containers (IBC) are wire containers with a pallet- base, used to transport liquid and other products. Some firewood banks are getting these containers for free from suppliers and then re-purposing them (cutting off the top and removing the bladder). The cages are an affordable way to store, stack and/or transport wood using a tractor or a skid steer with forks. Each tote is approximately 46”w, 38” deep 40” high and hold a face cord (1/3 of a cord).



Above: Intermediate bulk containers (photo courtesy of Florentino Floro, Wikimedia Commons).

Below are a few videos showing how to re-purpose a IBC for storing and moving firewood.

Video: A better Way to Handle Firewood

This “Outdoors with the Morgans” video shows how they use an IBC to store and transport wood.

Video: One of the Ways I Make and Use an IBC Tote for Firewood. #6

This video shows how the IBC bladders can be removed and used as a cover to keep the wood dry.

Video: The Ultimate Firewood Storage solution. An IBC Tote with Plastic Roof Complete Build.

This video shows another way to cut out the IBC bladder and use it as a cover.

WOOD SHEDS FOR 1 - 4 CORDS

Build a Firewood Storage Shed

(Burn Wise Program of EPA). 2018. EPA-456/F-18-002

Video: How to Build a Firewood Storage Shed

This EPA produced video shows how to build a wood drying shed that can hold approximately 1 cord. The video provides plans and materials list. Cost is approximately \$250.

Video: What Style (shape) of Wood Sheds Are Best?

This video explains that there are box style sheds with lots of rows of firewood and then there are longer, skinnier wood sheds with fewer rows. Skinnier sheds, may allow for better seasoning because more wood is exposed to the wind, sun.

With box style sheds, the middle rows may not be very exposed wind/sun and so don't dry down as well.

Example 1

Video: Building a Small Storage Shed Out of Pallets

This video was made by a group of students who volunteered at the Petersham Wood Bank. The photo below shows the crates they made. Each has a pallet on the bottom, so the wood can be moved around easily with a tractor or skid steer and/or lifted into a truck.



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Questions? Email info@forgreenheat.org