

Firewood; Facts, Fiction and Misconceptions

I grew up around firewood. In Boy Scouts we made campfires. While out camping with my parents we made campfires. My parents had a fireplace. In all the homes I have owned they had wood burning stoves. Being in the tree care business firewood is a by product of our operations. Being a self proclaimed firewood connoisseur here are some facts and misconceptions about firewood that I have discovered.

- A “*hardwood*” is defined as **any** deciduous tree, i.e. any tree that loses its leaves in the fall. This includes cottonwood and even balsa wood! Some hardwoods are definitely “harder” than others as illustrated by the balsa wood example. Walnut, locust, ash, and apple are some of the hardest woods available in our area.
- A “*softwood*” is defined as any coniferous tree; examples include pine, spruce, juniper and fir.
- A cord of firewood is volume measurement. The typical cord measurement is 4’x4’x 8’ or 128 cubic feet.
- In a perfect world a piece of firewood is 16” long and roughly 4” to 6” thick. Since we don’t live in a perfect world this size is approximate. Three - sixteen inch pieces butted up end to end is 48” or 4’, thus the 4’x4’x 8’ measurement.
- In the really olden days, firewood was to be stacked in a fashion that would allow rabbits to run through the spaces/gaps between the wood pieces in order to escape wolves and other predators. (People used to eat rabbits.)

When purchasing firewood...

- A combination mix of both hard and soft woods could contain many species of wood. And for the most part that should be okay. If you are looking for a specific species of tree/wood ask for it. Be prepared to pay a premium price for oak, hickory or apple, as much as three times the cost for a combination mix. If you ask for just hardwoods, it could be just about anything.

My own criteria for firewood

- It has to be dry, fits in my wood stove and produces heat! Pretty simple.
- I prefer a **combination** of both Hard and Softwoods. Softwoods such as pine and spruce burn quicker and give off a hot flame. This in turn helps ignite the hard woods. The hardwoods make a great bed of hot coals that can last through the night.

At **Jones Tree & Lawn** we sell what we call an Urban mix of split firewood. It contains maple, ash, walnut, locust, Ailanthus, linden, fruit wood, pine, spruce, juniper and other species. We consider cottonwood to be junk wood. It is not in our firewood mix that we sell.



**For pricing of our firewood call us at
303-431-8132**