

## Find Help Now

For the most up-to-date, confidential information on wood banks and other heating assistance programs in your area, **211 Maine is your best first call.**

- ◆ **Dial:** 2-1-1
- ◆ **Text:** Your zip code to **898-211**
- ◆ **Visit:** [www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org)

## Maine Wood Banks Network

You can also find a directory of active wood banks at the Maine Wood Banks Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting these community efforts.

[www.woodbanks.org](http://www.woodbanks.org)



## **Burn Safe, Burn Efficiently: Why Seasoned Wood Matters**

Burning dry, seasoned firewood is not just about heat—it's about safety and air quality for your home and community.

- ◆ **Fire Safety:** Green wood creates large amounts of a volatile substance called creosote, the leading cause of dangerous chimney fires.
- ◆ **Maximum Heat:** Dry, seasoned wood burns hotter, cleaner, and provides significantly more usable heat. Green wood is up to 50% water, wasting energy.
- ◆ **Air Quality:** Clean-burning seasoned wood produces far less smoke.

### **So what is "Seasoned" Wood?**

Cut, Split, and Stacked in a dry, airy location for at least 6 to 12 months. Moisture content should be below 20%

### ***Protect Maine's Forests: Don't Move Firewood!***

**Invasive insects** like the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) can be hiding in firewood and threaten to destroy Maine's forests.

### **OUT-OF-STATE FIREWOOD IS BANNED unless certified heat-treated.**

Within Maine, it is **ILLEGAL** to move firewood out of regulated quarantine areas and **UNSAFE** to move firewood far from where it is harvested. Seasoning wood does **NOT** kill pests.

### **GET IT WHERE YOU BURN IT!**

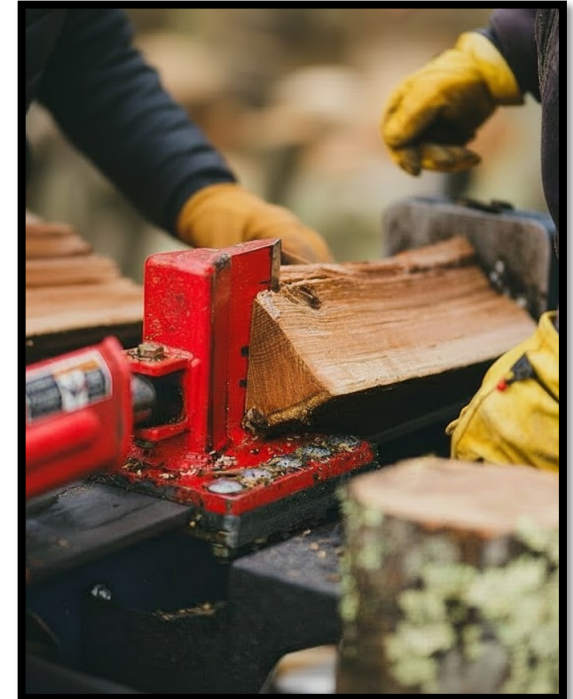
Always get your wood from a local source.

[www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org)

[www.maine.gov/firewoodbanks](http://www.maine.gov/firewoodbanks)



# **A Guide to Maine's Wood Banks**



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## ***What is a Wood Bank?***

A wood bank is a community-based program, much like a food bank, that provides emergency or supplemental firewood to neighbors in need.

In Maine, heating with wood is a way of life. For many, it is the most affordable way to stay warm. However, unexpected financial hardship, illness, or age can make it difficult for our neighbors to secure the wood they need to get through the winter.

Wood banks bridge this gap. They are run by dedicated volunteers who donate their time to process and deliver wood to elderly, disabled, and low-income residents who might otherwise be left in the cold.

### **Wood banks are vital because they:**

- ◆ Provide essential emergency heat to vulnerable households.
- ◆ Foster strong community connections through neighbors helping neighbors.
- ◆ Offer a dignified way for people to ask for and receive help.

## ***How You Can Help***

Wood banks run on community support. Your contribution, big or small, keeps your neighbors warm.

### **Donate Wood**

Do you have trees to spare or firewood you don't need?

- ◆ **What's needed:** Hardwoods like oak, maple, beech, and ash are best.
- ◆ **What condition:** Seasoned (dry) wood is ideal, but many programs also accept log-length or green wood that volunteers can process.
- ◆ **Please call first!** Every wood bank has different needs and capabilities for accepting donations.

### **Donate Time**

Volunteers are the heart of every wood bank. Help is often needed to:

- ◆ Cut, split, and stack wood at a central processing site.
- ◆ Deliver wood to recipients' homes.
- ◆ Organizing and answering calls.

### **Donate Funds**

Monetary donations are crucial for covering operational costs like:

- ◆ Fuel and insurance for delivery vehicles.
- ◆ Chainsaw and log splitter maintenance.
- ◆ Purchasing safety gear for volunteers.

## ***Do You Need Help with Firewood?***

If you are struggling to heat your home and are worried about running out of wood, help is available.

Maine's wood banks are here to provide a helping hand. Most programs are designed to provide a supplemental or emergency supply of firewood to households in need.

Eligibility and application processes vary by wood bank. The best way to get connected is to reach out to Maine's central resource directory.

To find the wood bank or heating assistance program serving your community, please see the contact panel on the back of this brochure.

**[www.maine.gov/firewoodbanks](http://www.maine.gov/firewoodbanks)**

