



Measurement
Canada

Mesures
Canada

An Agency of
Industry Canada

Un organisme
d'Industrie Canada

Buying Firewood? Don't Get Burned!



Fair Measure
For All



La mesure juste
pour tous

Canada 

How Is It Sold?



In Canada, most firewood is sold by the *cord*. A cord is a legal unit of measurement defined by the Weights and

Measures Regulations as "128 cubic feet of stacked roundwood (whole or split, with or without bark) containing wood and airspace with all bolts of similar length piled in a regular manner with their longitudinal axes approximately parallel."

How Is It Measured?

Follow these steps to ensure that you have received the correct quantity:

- Stack the wood neatly in a line or row, ensuring that individual pieces are touching and parallel to each other with as few gaps as possible.
- Measure the length, width and height of the stack in feet (for example, 4 feet X 8 feet X 4 feet).
- Multiply these measurements to calculate the volume in cubic feet.
- If your result is equal to 128 cubic feet, you have a cord.

Which Units of Measurement Are Legal?

Some firewood dealers have been known to use various units of measurement to sell firewood. Some of these units of measurement are legal in Canada and some are not. Beware of terms that are not recognized as legal units of measurement, as they will often mean less than a cord.

Common legal units of measurement used in the sale of firewood

• cord	• stacked cubic metre
• fractions of a cord	• fractions of a stacked cubic metre
• cubic feet	

Terms that are not recognized (illegal) for the sale of firewood in Canada

• apartment cord	• tossed cord
• furnace cord	• single cord
• rack of wood	• face cord
• short cord	• processed cord
• bush cord	• truckload of wood
• pile of wood	• stove cord

How to Protect Yourself

Adhering to the following precautions when purchasing firewood will help ensure that you get what you pay for.

When ordering firewood:

- Ask for it to be delivered stacked in the truck so that you can measure it before it is unloaded.
- If this is not possible, immediately following delivery:
 - ▶ stack the firewood;
 - ▶ measure the length, width and height of the stack; and
 - ▶ calculate the quantity that you received.

When receiving the firewood:

- Be present at the time of delivery. Do not rely on a neighbour to accept delivery on your behalf.
- Ask for a receipt and verify that it indicates:
 - the quantity and type of firewood purchased;
 - the seller's name, address and telephone number; and
 - the price paid.
- Write down the licence plate number of the delivery vehicle.

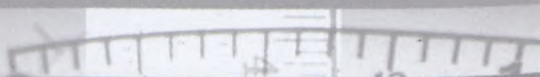
Before using any firewood:

- Verify that the quantity received is the same as the quantity paid for. If there is a discrepancy, contact the seller before using any of the firewood.

Do You Think You've Been Short-changed?

If you received less firewood than you paid for, and after contacting the seller you are not completely satisfied, contact the nearest Measurement Canada office before using any of the firewood. We are listed in the blue pages of your telephone directory, under "Industry Canada" in the Government of Canada section.

Or visit the Measurement Canada Web site (<http://mc.ic.gc.ca>).



Summary

- A cord is equal to 128 cubic feet of firewood.
- Legal units of measurement for firewood are the cord, fractions of a cord, cubic feet, the stacked cubic metre and fractions of a stacked cubic metre.
- Beware of units of measurement that are not recognized in Canada (illegal). You are likely to receive less firewood for your money.
- Verify that the quantity of firewood received is the same as the quantity paid for.
- If you have any questions or complaints regarding the quantity of firewood received, contact the nearest Measurement Canada office.

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(Industry Canada) 2000
ISBN 0-662-64730-0
Cat. No. C2-472/2000
52993B



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