

Firewood Administration Common Questions and Answers

Why do I need a permit?

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* prohibits harvest of any timber without proper authorization. This includes dead and down timber or logging residue. The *Forest Act* requires all forest products being transported in any manner to have the necessary documentation. The Squamish Forest District Free Use Permit is the necessary documentation. Having this permit will assist the Ministry of Forests and Range, and/or other enforcement agencies, in policing wood transportation.

What permit do I need for firewood?

You need a Free Use Permit. Only permits authorised through the Ministry of Forests and Range are valid.

How many permits do I need?

You need a separate permit for each vehicle involved in the transport and/or harvesting of domestic firewood, including the transport of any firewood originating from private land. If there is no vehicle on-site during the active harvesting of firewood, there must be a permit on site with the person or persons doing the harvesting.

Do I also need another permit from the forest companies?

Yes, if you wish to cut on areas under an existing tenure or permit with another person or forest company, such as a Tree Farm Licence or private land held by a forest company. If you are unsure as to where these types of tenures exist, you should get an agreement from the forest company in question.

Where can I cut firewood?

Firewood can be cut from roadside logging debris in the following designated cutting areas:

- a) the area within the right-of-way of any industrial logging road located on Crown land (the right-of-way width extends 37.5 metres either side of the road centre);
- b) the area within previously harvested, non-active logging blocks located on Crown land;
- c) the area within the BC Hydro right-of-way located on Crown land.

What can I cut?

Debris piles and/or slash are eligible. You may not cut production wood, such as decked logs in an active setting. If in doubt, do not cut. If there is decked wood, machinery, or a timber mark posted, it is very likely the site is still active and you must avoid cutting. Waste piles are an indicator of an inactive site. It is important to note that the absence of machinery does **not** indicate wood has been abandoned. Many commercial operations will hold inventory at various stages of harvest in the forest. You may also cut driftwood providing that it is less than 3.6 meters (12 feet) long and is not suitable for lumber, shake, or shingle production. Again, if in doubt, do not cut.

May I cut live trees with little or no commercial value?

No. The Free Use Permit, for domestic firewood purposes, does **not** provide authority to cut any live tree for any reason (including alder). You must have a separate and specific authority in addition to your Free Use Permit to cut any live tree.

May I cut dead, standing trees?

No. Dead trees (snags) have environmental value as nest and perch trees, as well as being host to numerous other organisms. Snags are only removed under agreements issued by the Crown, or tenure holders may remove snags for safety reasons. A Free Use Permit does **not** provide authority to remove a snag for safety purposes.

Do I need to timber mark my firewood?

No. Personal domestic firewood activities have been exempted, in the Squamish Forest District, from the *Forest Act* marking requirements for all timber products under transport. The Free Use Permit must be with the vehicle. This satisfies the transportation documentation requirements in the *Forest Act* and debris piles.

Do I need to scale my firewood?

No. There is a requirement under the *Forest Act* for all timber products harvested in British Columbia to be scaled, including firewood and wood from private land; however, personal, domestic, firewood activities have been exempted from this requirement in the Squamish Forest District. Commercial harvesters (people selling firewood) are **not** exempted and must have their product scaled.

Do I need a radio to travel on logging roads?

It is recommended that all active logging roads be avoided when hauling is taking place, even if you have a radio with all the appropriate frequencies. Any increase in traffic increases the risk to all road users. The forest companies can tell you which roads are active, which are not, and what would be the best days and times to use the roads.

How much wood can I take?

Four cords (approximately ten regular pickup loads).

Are there restrictions on where and how it is transported?

The firewood must only be transported to the residence identified on your permit application, and only in the vehicle bearing the licence plate number that you provide in your application.

Can I sell the wood?

No. Any firewood cut under this permit is for personal use only and cannot be sold. For information on commercial firewood cutting permits, please contact your local forest district and inquire about the Small Scale Salvage program.

How long is the permit valid?

This permit is valid for one year, or until the supply of roadside logging debris in the permit area has been exhausted, or is otherwise disposed of by the Ministry, whichever comes first.

Who assumes the risk for loss or injury?

Persons engaging in firewood cutting under this permit will assume all risk of loss or injury and save harmless the Crown from all and any claims