

Firewood can be collected for domestic use on public land at designated collection areas during the Autumn and Spring collection periods.

It is important that collection of firewood is undertaken in a way that ensures fair and equitable allocation of the resource.

Firewood supplies are limited in many areas of Victoria, particularly in drier forests and along the Murray River where tree's with high firewood value tend to have slow growth rates.

Firewood collection should not negatively impact on the environment or public safety as the community needs to ensure the long term sustainability of this important resource.

Authorised officers conduct regular patrols of firewood collection areas including non firewood collection areas.

Please ensure you abide by collection rules as significant penalties apply.

Surveillance cameras may be installed across areas of State forest to monitor illegal collection of firewood and assist Conservation Regulator authorised officers undertake an appropriate enforcement response.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2017



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Australia licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISBN 978-1-76047-822 -3 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-76047-823-0 (pdf/online)

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone DELWP Customer Service Centre 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood

To report suspicious or illegal activity call 136 186



Can I? Can't I?

Domestic Firewood Collection



FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

<p>Are there certain areas I should collect firewood from?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Domestic firewood collection is only allowed in designated firewood collection areas during a firewood collection season. These areas will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign posted with a domestic firewood collection sign. • Indicated on a current domestic firewood collection area map. <p>Before collecting firewood you should obtain a current firewood collection area map from your nearest DELWP or Parks Victoria Office or online via ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.</p>	<p>Can certain individuals be given priority access to firewood?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>In areas where firewood supplies are very limited, we can give priority access. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those more dependent on firewood as a household energy source. • Local community members. • Concession card holders and/or • Traditional Owners. 	<p>Can I fall trees when collecting firewood?</p>	<p>No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling trees – both dead or alive – on public land is strictly prohibited and is illegal by non-authorised persons. • Illegal tree falling on public land is a public safety risk and has significant impacts on the environment including loss of wildlife habitat.
<p>Are there certain times of the year I should collect firewood?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Firewood collection is allowed during two statewide firewood seasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 March to 30 June – Autumn • 1 September to 30 November – Spring <p>If there is fire danger risk the relevant firewood collection season may be shortened in some areas. Some firewood collection areas can be subject to planned burning activity and other activities, and may be closed at short notice. Updates will be provided online via ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.</p>	<p>Can I collect firewood for another person?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>To do so, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a nominated firewood collection form. • Produce your nominated collection form upon demand by a DELWP or Parks Victoria Authorised Officer. <p>Nominated collection forms are available from your nearest DELWP or Parks Victoria Office or online via ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.</p>	<p>Can I sell firewood that I collected from public land?</p>	<p>No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless authorised to do so, selling firewood collected from any public land is illegal. <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It impacts on the economic viability of local firewood businesses that are authorised to harvest and sell firewood from public land. • It reduces the amount of firewood available to communities. • It has significant negative impacts on the environment through over collection or collecting timber from environmentally sensitive areas.
<p>How much firewood can I collect?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can only collect two cubic meters of firewood per person per day. • You can only collect a total of 16 cubic metres of firewood per household per financial year. <p>Firewood is in short supply in many areas, and this limit is designed to prevent households stockpiling large volumes of firewood from public land and denying others a supply.</p> <p>Some households in regional areas rely on firewood for winter energy. Please consider others when deciding how much firewood to collect.</p>	<p>Can a person be fined for not following the correct firewood rules?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Infringement notices are issued for a range of offences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking more than the daily limit of 2 cubic metres per person of firewood from a firewood collection area during a firewood collection season. • cutting or taking firewood for domestic use from state forest outside a designated firewood collection area. • bringing heavy vehicles / machinery into a firewood collection area. • collecting firewood within 20 metres of a watercourse. • falling live or dead standing trees. • cutting or taking a visibly hollow log or a log growing moss or fungi. • driving your vehicle off formed roads or tracks. <p>Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated firewood collection areas or a firewood collection season or take more than the maximum allowable amounts, can face significant fines, or even one year imprisonment.</p>	<p>If I buy firewood, how do I know if it has been legally harvested?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask to see the operator's commercial firewood licence. • Commercial operators harvesting firewood from public land are licensed by VicForests and operators will be able to produce their commercial licence.

If you see something, say something.
Please call 136 186 to report suspected illegal activity.