

Which Types of Firewood Burn The Hottest?

If you have a wood-burning fireplace or heating stove, you undoubtedly want to make sure your fires burn as efficiently as possible, giving you the most heat for the least amount of wood.

So which types of wood burn the hottest?

Choose hardwoods for a hotter, cleaner fire. Hardwoods are denser than softwoods and burn hotter and longer. They also produce less smoke and sparks than their softer counterparts. Cord to cord, hardwoods burn hotter than softwoods. Because of the wood's density, [hardwoods](#) take longer to ignite, but once they begin burning, they'll produce more heat and burn for a longer period of time. Because of their hotter burn temperatures, hardwoods have the added bonus of burning more cleanly, putting off less creosote-creating smoke than their softwood counterparts.

Even among the hardwoods, some burn hotter than others, churning up more BTUs per cord. For the sake of comparison, here are the [BTUs per cord](#) of some of the hardwoods commonly found in the eastern United States:

Osage orange, 32.9 BTUs per cord

Shagbark hickory, 27.7 BTUs per cord

Eastern hornbeam, 27.1 BTUs per cord

Black birch, 26.8 BTUs per cord

Black locust, 26.8 BTUs per cord

Blue beech, 26.8 BTUs per cord

Ironwood, 26.8 BTUs per cord

Bitternut hickory, 26.5 BTUs per cord

Honey locust, 26.5 BTUs per cord

Apple, 25.8 BTUs per cord

Mulberry, 25.7 BTUs per cord

Beech, 24 BTUs per cord

Northern red oak, 24 BTUs per cord

Sugar maple, 24 BTUs per cord

White oak, 24 BTUs per cord

White ash, 23.6 BTUs per cord

Yellow birch, 21.8 BTUs per cord

Red elm, 21.6 BTUs per cord

Hackberry, 20.8 BTUs per cord

Kentucky coffee tree, 20.8 BTUs per cord

Gray birch, 20.3 BTUs per cord

Paper birch, 20.3 BTUs per cord

White birch, 20.2 BTUs per cord

Black walnut, 20 BTUs per cord

Cherry, 20 BTUs per cord

Green ash, 19.9 BTUs per cord

Black cherry, 19.5 BTUs per cord

American elm, 19.5 BTUs per cord

White elm, 19.5 BTUs per cord

Sycamore, 19.1 BTUs per cord

Black ash, 18.7 BTUs per cord

Red maple, 18.1 BTUs per cord

MULBERRY:

Is mulberry good firewood?

Mulberry is considered excellent firewood that is hard to fault. Its heat output is high with excellent coaling properties. The wood is generally easy to split and produces a pleasant fragrance.

Can you cook food with mulberry wood?

When mulberry wood is burned, it produces a sweet smelling smoke similar to apple. It is a good choice for imparting flavor into poultry, fish, and pork.

Does mulberry wood pop when burning?

Gives off impressive heat that is comparable to red oak and maple. Produces long-burning coals that keep you warm all night. Excessively sparks and pops so not recommended for use where fire risk is high.

Honey Locust:

Honey locust is one of the best firewood varieties thanks to its heat output, ease of splitting, and excellent coals. It makes useful all-round firewood that has no glaring weaknesses.

Is Honey Locust A Hardwood Or Softwood?

Honey locust is a hardwood, which is the best type of wood to use for firewood.

Regarding hardness, honey locust ranks relatively high on the Janka scale, with a score of 1,580 lbf. It's not as hard as [hickory](#), but it's slightly harder than white oak and significantly denser than pine or [ash](#).

Is Honey Locust Good Firewood?

Honey locust makes for some of the best firewood around. The wood burns hot and slow, with little to no smoke, and produces an optimal amount of coals.

Because of the low smoke amounts, it's also less likely to cause creosote build-up in your chimney.

Another great thing about honey locust is that it has a high BTU rating, which means that it releases a lot of heat when burned. Its BTU is among the highest of the standard firewood options. When it comes to BTUs (British Thermal Units), honey locust firewood is near the top of the list, with a rating of 26.5 million BTUs per cord.

Furthermore, the density of the wood means it burns slowly and steadily. This is perfect for getting you through those long winter nights or keeping a campfire going all night long.

This wood is perfect for burning during the winter when you want a considerable amount of heat, or for a bonfire party with lots of people.

Benefits Of Burning Honey Locust

There are several benefits to burning honey locust as firewood.

First, it burns hot and slow, so you can get a good fire going that will give you a lot of heat for a longer time. Thus not having to add wood for longer periods or stock the fire as frequently as with other hardwood only fires like oak.

Another benefit is that it doesn't produce much smoke. This not only reduces the risk of creosote build-up in your chimney, but it also means there's less chance of irritating your lungs if you're spending a lot of time near the fire.

Honey locust is also a good choice if you're looking for wood that produces a lot of high-quality coals. This is perfect for cooking, as you can get a good bed of coals that will retain heat.

Can I burn green honey locust firewood?

You can technically burn green honey locust firewood, but it's not recommended.

Can I use honey locust wood in a wood stove?

Yes, honey locust wood can be used in a [good wood stove](#). Again! It's a prime choice for this purpose because it produces a lot of heat and little smoke.

And once Again! It also burns slowly, meaning you won't need to add wood to the stove as often.

Drawbacks Of Burning Honey Locust

One potential drawback of using honey locust wood for fires is that it can be hard to find. (Though CHEAPEST TREE WORK LLC. Has plenty of Honey Locust Split and ready to go!)

This is because this wood is not as popular as other options, such as oak or ash. Because of this, a cord of firewood can be a bit on the expensive side. (Not CHEAPEST TREE WORK LLC.. We actually sell it for less!)

Does Honey Locust pop?

In addition, honey locust firewood is known to produce some too few sparks on occasion. While this may not be a deal-breaker for some people, it's something to be aware of if you're planning to use the wood in an open fireplace. As for burning

outside in an open fire or in a woodburning stove getting burnt by a random spark is unlikely with this almost perfect wood, it's still always best to stay vigilant.

THE BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

For the money we at CHEAPEST TREE WORK LLC. feel Honey Locust is your Best bang for your Buck!

Ash:

Ash is good for firewood because it is a clean burning hard wood that produces an adequate amount of heat. It has a neutral aroma and won't leave your hands all pitchy. Some argue that it is the best firewood to use!

Is ash wood any good for burning?

Ash – (Scientific Name – Fraxinus) Ash is thought to be one of the very best woods for burning. Ash creates a steady flame and a good heat output. Unlike other wood, ash can be burnt when green, but like with most wood burns at its very best when it is dry.

Does ash need to be seasoned before burning?

Ash: One of the best woods for a steady fire and good heat. Although ash will burn when green, it burns better when seasoned.

How long does ash firewood take to season?

between 6 and 12 months

It's especially popular amongst those who like to season their own firewood, as ash only takes between 6 and 12 months to season fully, making it a better option for seasoning than oak.

Does ash firewood spark?

Luckily, Ash produces very few sparks. In fact, it one of the best performers in the "low spark" category which is another reason why it's a great choice for open indoor fireplaces.

Pin Oak:

There are a few things to consider when determining if pin oak is good firewood. The first is the density of the wood; pin oak is a fairly dense wood, which means it will burn hot and slow. This is good for creating a long-lasting fire, but it can also make it difficult to get the fire started.

Is pin oak good burning wood?

The pin oak has several small dead branches that stick out from the trunk like "pins" resulting in the name of the tree. While the pin oak is not as desirable for furniture, cabinets and flooring as the red oak, the tree still produces great firewood.

Is pin oak considered white oak?

Comments: Pin Oak falls into the red oak group, and shares many of the same traits as Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). Red Oak, along with its brother White Oak, are commonly used domestic lumber species.

What are the characteristics of oak firewood?

Oak is one of the top firewood options, offering a long, slow burn and intense heat output. It takes longer than most other woods to season fully, but you'll get fuel that keeps burning all night. A wood source that's abundant throughout most of North America.

What type of oak burns the best?

Research shows that a full cord of red oak firewood will produce 24 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) of heat when burned. The only tree species that produces more heat than red oak is black locust at 26.8 million BTUs.

Is oak OK to burn in a fireplace?

When deciding what kind of wood to burn in your fireplace, oak is probably the top choice. This is because out of all the different kinds of hardwood, oak burns the longest and produces the most heat. One cord of oak firewood produces around 29 million BTUs.

Does oak burn better than ash?

Oak produces a flame initially and then reduces to a small flame/glow. This firewood will burn for longer than ash and for those who know how to use it properly, is a very popular and sought-after firewood.

Can you burn oak straight away?

Oak is the slowest wood to season, and ideally should be seasoned for one to two years. Because of its density, it is a wood that's slow to burn as firewood and is best used in a mix of faster-burning logs.

HEDGE or OSAGE ORANGE:

Is hedge a good firewood?

Osage orange firewood, also known as hedge, horse apple or bodark, is one of the best firewood types available. This oddly shaped tree does not grow very tall (roughly 26-49 feet) but its wood is extremely dense making it a great firewood choice because it has the highest BTU rating of any other wood in Kansas.

Is hedge good to burn in fireplace?

Burning hardwood gives you a longer burning fire, produces less ash and produces less creosote. Can I burn hedge in a fireplace? It is not recommended to burn hedge (Osage Orange) in a fireplace/insert. Most inserts are not designed to withstand the heat hedge puts off.

How long does it take for hedge firewood to dry?

Don't stack firewood against the home or a wooden fence because moisture condensation can cause mold and decay on wall sections and wood surfaces. Ideally, the firewood should season for a year. It can lose considerable moisture from air drying for three months; six is even better.

How long to season firewood after splitting?

Softwood that is split and in a dry place takes 4-6 summer months to dry to an acceptable moisture level. Hardwoods can take up to 12 months (in some cases as much as 24 mo) to dry after being split.

Should you leave a fireplace burning overnight?

You should never leave your fireplace burning and unattended overnight while you sleep. This represents a major safety hazard. A fireplace should never be left burning if it is going to be unattended in any capacity. This includes during the night while you sleep.

Is there any wood that is toxic to burn?

Poisonous Wood

Burning poison oak, poison ivy, poison sumac, Brazilian peppertree and poisonwood creates smoke with irritant oils that can cause severe breathing problems and eye irritation.

What wood burns the hottest in a fireplace?

When asking which wood burns the hottest the answer is still ash, even if the wood isn't completely dry. Beech: As one of the best fire logs for fireplaces and topping the best firewood for heat, this is second to ash only because it needs to be seasoned.

What is the best firewood to burn overnight?

Oak. Oak is the slowest wood to season, at approximately 2.5cm a year and ideally should be seasoned for a minimum of two years. Because of its density, it is a wood that's slow to burn as firewood and is best used in a mix of faster-burning logs. This wood can help to keep the fire burning at night if required.

Can firewood get rained on?

Once wood has properly seasoned, does it matter whether rain gets on seasoned firewood? Seasoned firewood should be stored out of the rain to help prolong how well it keeps for. If seasoned firewood gets rained on it can dry out within a few days, but constant contact with moisture will lead to the wood going bad.

Can firewood be too dry?

Reality is yes, firewood can in fact be too dry. Really, you say?! Yes, in fact it can, but generally is not a huge problem and wood which is green is usually of greater concern. If you have dry wood, mix with regular wood and average out the moisture level and all should be good.

Does firewood dry in the winter?

Yes, but firewood dries slower in winter. Sunlight—one of the key ingredients for drying wood—is in short supply in winter. Though drier winter air helps extract some moisture from the firewood, the process is much slower than in warmer weather.

What should you not burn in a fireplace?

The inks used in wrapping paper, newspaper inserts, glossy magazines, pizza boxes and other items contain metals that give off toxic fumes when burned. Paper burns very quickly and can easily float up the chimney. This is dangerous since flames that enter the chimney can ignite the creosote deposits in the flue.

What wood should not be used for firewood?

Avoid: Treated/ Manufactured Wood

Often lumber is treated with chemicals to create all kinds of products: Coated or sealed wood. Painted wood. Pressure-treated wood.

What to do after your fire goes out in fireplace?

After your fire is completely out, ensure there are no tiny leftover embers burning by covering the wood with a thin layer of baking soda. Baking soda contains sodium bicarbonate, which is an ingredient in many class C fire extinguishers that will completely extinguish any stray embers.

Does baking soda put out fires?

Douse the Flames you can reach for two pantry staples to help douse a small grease fire safely: baking soda is effective because it releases carbon dioxide when heated, which can smother the fire. Salt forms a barrier between the fire and the air. This prevents the fire from getting the oxygen it needs.

How long should you keep a fireplace on?

In short, you really shouldn't let a gas fireplace on for too long—specifically more than three hours at a time.

How often should you empty your fireplace?

Fireplaces should be inspected and cleaned at least once a year. Burning wood produces ash, creosote, soot, and other debris that builds up in the chimney over time and becomes a hazard.

Should I leave the damper open overnight?

If your fire has died down to burning embers, should you close your glass fireplace doors and leave your damper open all night, despite the heat that will escape until morning? **Absolutely!** It could be dangerous to close the damper too soon and the heat you'll lose is miniscule compared to those dangers.

Is it OK to use the fireplace every day?

A few hours on occasion might be okay, but continued daily exposure might pose significant health hazards.

What is the best firewood to burn in an indoor fireplace?

Oak burns hotter and is long-lasting. Also, there's less pitch and sap, making it easier to clean things up afterward. Easy cleanup and minimal smoke make oak the best firewood for indoor fireplaces, too. Remember, not all woods are created equally.

What is mixed hardwood firewood?

Mixed hardwood will consist of some oak, Ash, Locust, maple, riverbursh, sycamore, bradford pear, sweet gum, hackberry and other medium and hardwoods that come in from local tree work. Mixed wood does not include cottonwood, elm, pine, willow or cedar. This blend will be easier to start and will result in a larger flame, but it will also burn fairly quickly. Oak is going to be harder to start, have a smaller flame, and it will burn hotter and longer. Medium woods have a looser grain allowing them to breath more, thus allowing more oxygen to pull through the harder woods helping them burn

If you're burning a fire at home for ambiance and not wanting to leave unattend burning all night long, then mixed wood would be the best choice. Due to Price, easy to start, flame, and burn time.

Does all wood pop??

Yes, though some woods have a greater tendency than others

What causes wood to pop?

It's usually water or sap that's trapped in the wood which heats up until it becomes a gas. The gas builds up pressure because it expands the hotter it gets, until it eventually has enough force to break through the wood and escape. That's what causes the popping or crackling sound and sprays bits of embers out.