



DON'T GET BURNED BUYING FIREWOOD



Allen County Auditor Ben Diepenbrock cautioned consumers today to know what they are getting when they buy firewood for this winter season.

With the price of heating your home increasing this year because conventional sources of heating seem to be increasing, you need to know that when you are buying firewood there is really only one way of measuring it. You buy wood by the cord.

Weights and measures rules state that a cord of wood must equal 128 cubic feet. To be sure you have a cord, stack the wood neatly (or have it stacked for you although it may cost you) by placing the wood in a line or a row, with individual pieces touching or parallel to each other and assure that there are no gaps in it. If the width times the height times the length equals 128 cubic feet, you have a cord of firewood.

The sale of wood, by any other measure, may not be legal. If a seller is using terms such as a truckload, pile, or rack, you do not have any way of knowing what you are getting because these terms are not quantifiable or measurable. Wood can only be sold by the cord or a fraction of a cord such as a half-cord or quarter-cord.

When you buy firewood it is suggested that you get a receipt which shows the seller's name, address and phone number. The receipt should also show the amount of wood, type of wood and what you paid for it.

If for some reason you are skeptical about the quantity, measure the wood and take a picture of it to make sure you get your moneys worth, but do that before using any of it. You can get the license number of the truck to verify the source too.

If you think you are getting short-changed, and the seller will not "make it right", contact your Allen County auditor at 419-223-8520. We are here to look out for the best interests of the consumer.

Don't get burned buying firewood this winter.

Ben E. Diepenbrock, Allen County Auditor
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