

Information sheet Box Ironbark Domestic Firewood Permit System

No. 5 Stovewood

What is Stovewood?

Stovewood has been defined by DSE as solid wood that is generally **25mm (1") to 100mm (4")** in diameter. Stovewood is predominantly wood that comes from the branches or top of trees.

Stovewood is ideal for use in wood stoves used for cooking and heating hot water services because of its size. The wood is easier to handle and collect than larger firewood and does not require splitting like firewood. Stovewood is also ideal for use because it is dry and ready for immediate use.

It is important that customers only collect wood from the areas designated for stovewood in the forest. Collecting wood outside the stovewood area stated on your permit is a breach of your permit and penalties apply.

Why is DSE introducing stovewood?

The Firewood Taskforce recommended that DSE investigate the possibility of introducing a stovewood supply system.

DSE is aware that there are many households within the Box Ironbark supply areas that rely upon wood as a heat source for cooking and hot water services. These households require a low cost source of small sized wood for heating. In an attempt to meet this need, DSE has introduced stovewood.

Stovewood is residual timber from other harvesting operations. The instigating of the stovewood system is an attempt to make use of this by-product.

DSE will manage the issues of stovewood removal and forest ecology together. This will mean that stovewood areas will be closed to collection before the removal of all the stovewood. This is to retain adequate woody debris on the ground for ecological reasons. In such situations, DSE will give adequate warning of the closure of any stovewood area.

How much stovewood can I collect?

The volume of stovewood that can be collected is limited per household to ensure a sustainable supply of stovewood, and to ensure that the ecological values of the forest ecosystem are also maintained.

Stovewood will be available for purchase in 1m³ amounts. The maximum quantity that can be purchased per household will be:

6m³ for Durable species stovewood

** All stovewood areas have Durable species stovewood (eg. Box and Ironbark species).

Please note the volume of stovewood you purchase is in addition to any volume of firewood that you may purchase during the firewood season. You can purchase a permit for firewood as well as a permit for stovewood.

The supply of stovewood is limited and can only be provided as other harvesting operations allow.

How much does it cost to purchase stovewood?

The cost of stovewood is less than firewood, as it is a by-product of other harvesting operations. The cost of stovewood for 2010 is:

Stovewood	
1m ³	\$16.20
2m ³	\$32.40
3m ³	\$48.60
4m ³	\$64.80
5m ³	\$81.00
6m ³	\$97.20

Current Concession cardholders can receive a discount of 50% on the royalty rate for stove wood, the reduced rate, being:

Stovewood – Concession Rate	
1m ³	\$8.65
2m ³	\$17.30
3m ³	\$25.95
4m ³	\$34.60
5m ³	\$43.25
6m ³	\$51.90

To claim the concession rate, customers need to present their current concession card when applying for their stovewood permit.



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Where can I collect stovewood?

Stovewood areas will include completed firewood areas that have been closed to firewood collection as well as areas that have undergone pre-commercial thinning operations.

Stovewood collection areas will be available in all of the Box Ironbark Community Firewood Supply Areas. These being:

Bendigo	Inglewood
Castlemaine	Maryborough
Dunolly	Rushworth
Heathcote	

A map showing the location of the stovewood area will be provided with your permit. The DSE offices will also be able to provide you with the general location of stove wood areas.

What if I am unable to collect the stovewood myself?

Customers who are unable to collect their own stovewood, may nominate someone else (such as a friend or family member) to collect their stovewood on their behalf. DSE has lists of agents who are available to collect stovewood on your behalf for a fee.

When can I collect stovewood?

Stovewood will be available for collection during the annual firewood season. Collection begins in **early April** and finishes at the end of **August**.

Stovewood permits will be valid for a given period of time during the collection season. The collection periods for stovewood will be as follows:

One week per cubic metre.

Customers will need to nominate the starting date for their collection period on their application form. An extension to the nominated collection period may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, such as wet weather.

How do I purchase a permit for stovewood?

Customers wishing to purchase stovewood need to fill out the stovewood application form. Application forms are available from the DSE offices mentioned below or by calling the Firewood Hotline 5430 4666 to have an application sent out.

Customers need to indicate the volume of stovewood they wish to collect, the starting date of collection and the details of any person who will be collecting the wood on their behalf, as well as their personal details.

To purchase your stovewood permit, either take your completed form with payment to your local DSE office (Office location and opening hours below), or send your form and payment to:

Stovewood Permit
Department of Sustainability and Environment
Box 3100
Bendigo Delivery Centre VIC 3554

Location	Address	Opening Hours
Avoca	Napier Street Avoca	Fridays 1:00–4:00pm
Bendigo (Epsom)	Cnr Midland Highway and Taylor Street Epsom	Weekdays 8:30am–4:30pm
Castlemaine	37 Hargraves Street Castlemaine	Fridays 9:00am–4:00pm (Closed 12noon–12:30pm)
Heathcote	28 Herriot Street Heathcote	Wednesdays 9:00am–4:00pm (Closed 12noon–12:30pm)
Dunolly/ Inglewood	100 Southey Street Inglewood	Wednesdays 1:00–4:00pm
Maryborough	Office 2, 82 Alma Street Maryborough	Weekdays 9:00am–4:00pm (Closed 12noon–12:45 pm)
Rushworth	Stanhope Road Rushworth	Fridays 1:00–4:00pm
St Arnaud	Long Street St Arnaud	Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00am–3:30pm (Closed 12noon–12:30pm)

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For more information contact the **DSE Bendigo Firewood Hotline on (03) 5430 4666**.

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