

“Buy It Where You Burn It”

It’s that time of year! With the colder temps falling over the Midwest, everyone begins to look for additional heat sources to keep the costs of heating a home down. If you are fortunate enough to have a home that has a wood-burning stove, have you ever considered where your firewood comes from? Do you cut it yourself? Do you purchase it at a store or from the neighbor? Wherever you may find it, it’s important that you know exactly where it comes from.

Trees serve a huge purpose in ecosystems. They provide shade, diversity to a plant community, protection from wind erosion, and habitats for wildlife. When exposed to predators like insects or disease, whether on purpose or not, ecosystems are put at a major risk of collapse. One misplaced piece of wood or brush could cause this—especially when many of the natural predators for trees are too small to see with the naked eye.

So how far is too far to away? A good rule of thumb to follow is that, if possible, use wood that comes from your own farm or ranch. If you are going on a trip, buy the firewood once you get there rather than adding it to your packing list and bringing it with you. However, if that isn’t possible, is it generally best practice to stay within the 50-mile range of where you are going to burn the wood. The only exception is if the purchased firewood has been heat treated and stamped with either a USDA or Kansas Department of Agriculture stamp. Additionally, each state has their own rules and regulations on firewood, so it is important to check with each state when attempting to purchase or sell firewood. The Kansas Department of Agriculture regulates all commercial firewood sales in Kansas, but that may not be the case in other states.

Interested in learning more? Visit dontmovefirewood.org today!