

northumberland firewood

Buyers guide toolkit

keeping you warm and informed

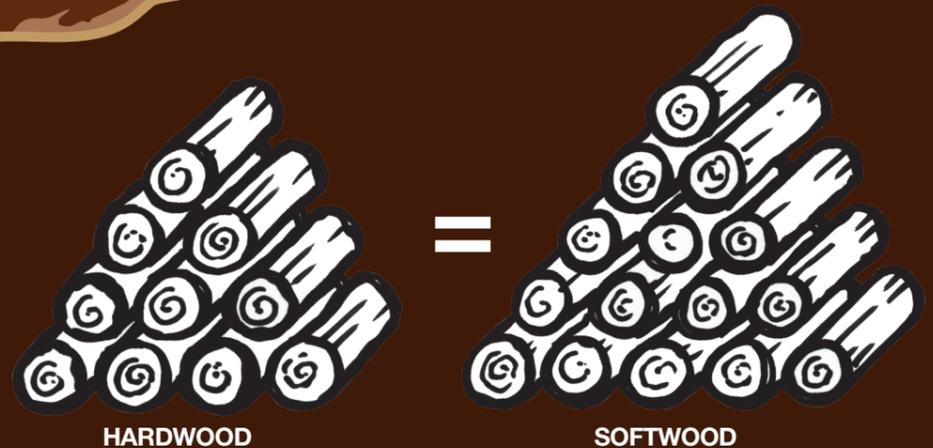
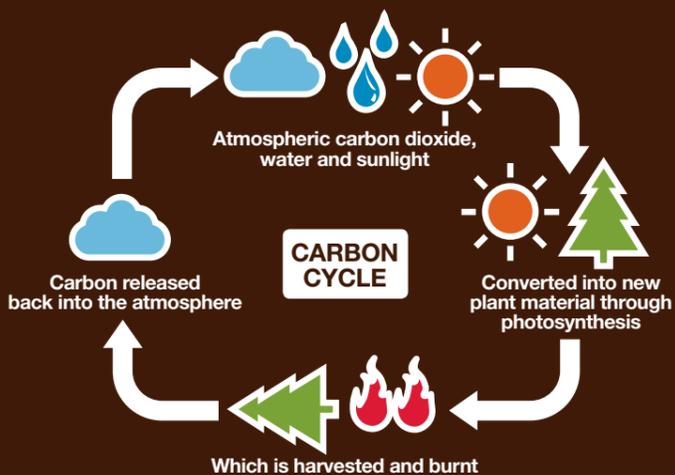
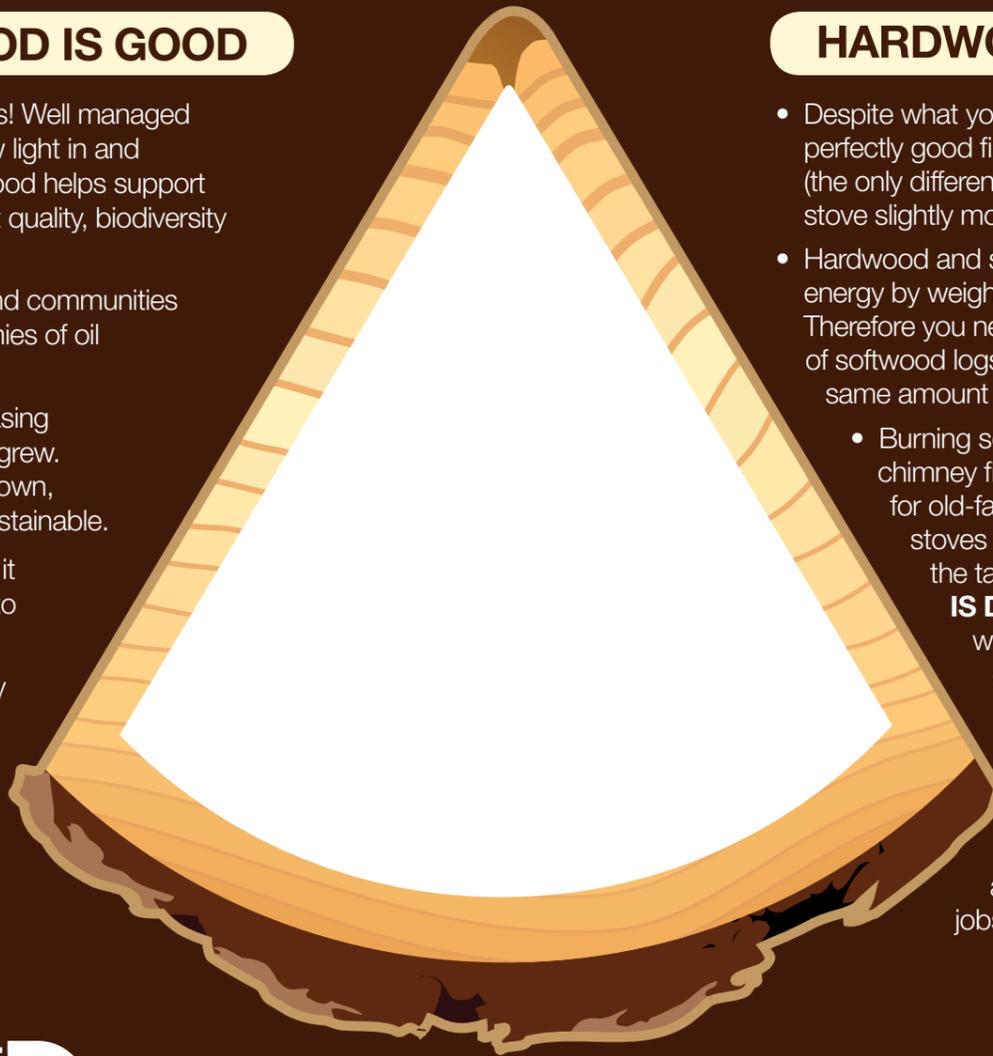


WHY BURNING WOOD IS GOOD

- Buying firewood is good for woodlands! Well managed woodlands need to be thinned to allow light in and encourage new growth – buying firewood helps support management which is good for habitat quality, biodiversity and the landscape.
- Buying firewood supports local jobs and communities in the North East – rather than economies of oil producing countries.
- Burning wood is carbon neutral – releasing carbon that was stored when the tree grew. Providing we replant trees we've cut down, which in the UK we certainly do, it's sustainable.
- Firewood increases energy security as it is locally sourced and not susceptible to political upheaval or price fluctuations.
- Think about where your heating energy comes from and how much damage it's doing to the environment. Heating with wood is cost effective and carbon neutral – giving you a warm glow, inside and out!

HARDWOOD OR SOFTWOOD

- Despite what you may have heard, softwood makes perfectly good firewood on a wood burning stove (the only difference being you may have to load the stove slightly more frequently).
- Hardwood and softwood have roughly the same energy by weight – the difference is density. Therefore you need about 1.5 times the volume of softwood logs as hardwood to produce the same amount of energy.
 - Burning softwood does not cause more chimney fires – this may have been the case for old-fashioned open fires, but modern stoves are easily hot enough to burn all the tar off **AS LONG AS THE WOOD IS DRY**. Any wet wood (hard or soft) will cause tar to build up, therefore dry softwood is far better than wet hardwood.
 - The North East has mostly softwood woodland and produces over 90% softwood timber. If you want to get your fuel from a local woodland and support local jobs, consider softwood!



OPEN FIRES V STOVES

Burning wood is different to burning coal, wood needs to be far hotter before it burns efficiently (around 1,000 degrees celsius). Open fires often struggle to get to these temperatures and therefore waste a lot of the energy in the wood.

Because of this, the same amount of wood will often produce about 3 times more heat in a stove than an open fire. Also an open fire has far more air going through it, which has to come into the building from the cold air outside, therefore with these two factors combined a stove could give as much as 8 times more heat than an open fire from the same amount of wood.

WHICH SPECIES BURN BEST?

We've already covered the merits of softwood for stoves, but for particular species then the basic rule is; as long as the logs are dry they all burn pretty much equally efficiently, however some species are difficult to season, or take a long time to season such as willow, oak, and elm, therefore are likely to arrive on your doorstep wetter than other species.

DO YOU BUY VOLUME OR WEIGHT?

A loose cubic metre (not stacked) is the standard sale unit for firewood. As wood dries it's volume doesn't change, it's weight does.

TOP 5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR FIREWOOD SUPPLIER...

- 1 Are your logs seasoned? If so, for how long? What is the moisture content?
- 2 How big are your logs? Split?
- 3 Where are your logs grown?
- 4 What quantity of logs do you deliver? Volume? Approximate weight?
- 5 Are you a member of a quality assurance scheme?



ORDER NOW

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CUT THIS REMINDER OUT AND PLACE IN YOUR LOG STACK TO REMIND YOU IT'S TIME TO ORDER ▲

BURN DRY, WELL SEASONED WOOD WITH LESS THAN 25% MOISTURE CONTENT

1 Energy wasted by burning wet logs

If you burn 15 wet logs during an evening in a typical 8kW stove, it would waste the same energy as putting a kettle on for 3 hours compared to burning dry wood...**use dry, well seasoned logs!**



If you want to know why, it's because any water in the firewood needs to be evaporated before it burns...this takes energy. Half of the weight of a freshly felled log will be water; a well seasoned log should only have a quarter of its weight as water at most.

2 Less tar and other nasties

Wet wood doesn't burn hot enough to burn off tar and soot which will end up in your stove and chimney...**use dry, well seasoned logs!**

3 More control over the fire

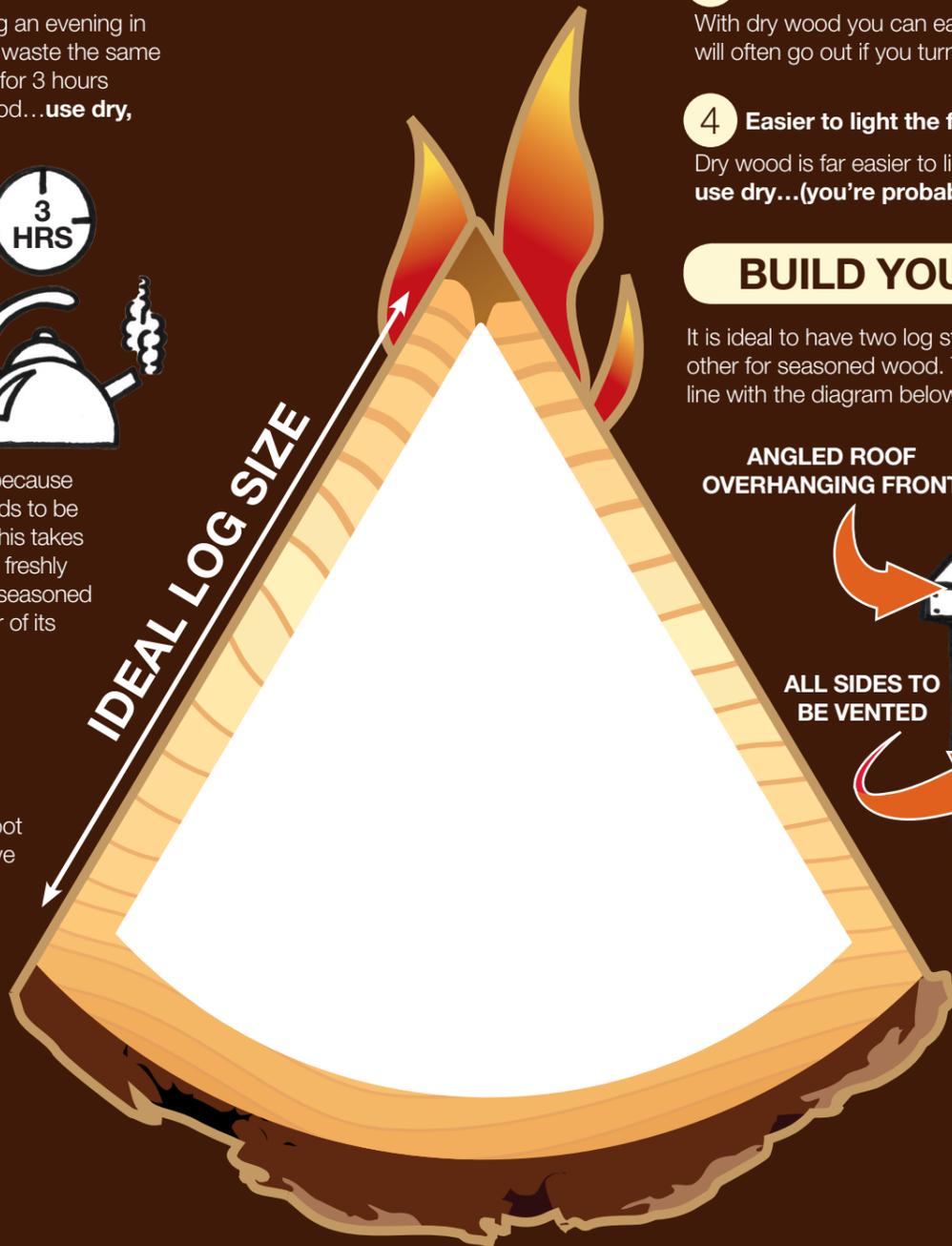
With dry wood you can easily turn down the fire if you want, wet wood will often go out if you turn it down...**use dry, well seasoned logs!**

4 Easier to light the fire

Dry wood is far easier to light and gets up to temperature faster...**use dry... (you're probably getting the idea by now)**

BUILD YOUR IDEAL LOG STORE

It is ideal to have two log stores, one for freshly cut wood and the other for seasoned wood. The log stores should be constructed in line with the diagram below.



ANGLED ROOF OVERHANGING FRONT

ALL SIDES TO BE VENTED

SOUTH FACING

VENTED FLOOR

CUT OUT THIS ARROW AND PLACE IT ONTO YOUR CALENDAR AS A REMINDER, GIVING YOU PLENTY OF TIME TO ORDER YOUR WOOD FOR NEXT YEAR.

ORDER YOUR FIREWOOD NOW

X NOT SUITABLE



✓ SEASONED



▼ CUT OUT AND PIN ON LOG PILE ▼

▼ CUT OUT AND PIN ON LOG PILE ▼

WET

SEMI DRY

USE

USE THIS MEASURE TO CUT YOUR LOGS TO YOUR IDEAL STOVE SIZE

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