

Test Your Wood with a Moisture Meter



Why Use a Moisture Meter?

Using a moisture meter ensures your firewood is dry and seasoned (*below 20 percent moisture content*), reducing guesswork. Meters are affordable and available online or at hardware stores for \$15–\$40.

Benefits of Burning Dry, Seasoned Wood

- Easier to ignite and maintain hotter fires.
- Requires less wood, saving time and effort.
- Produces less smoke and harmful pollutants.

Risks of Burning Wet Wood

Burning wood with high moisture content:

- Produces more smoke, usually in excess of 20% opacity allowed.
- Releases harmful pollutants that can affect everyone's health.

Note: Burning improperly seasoned wood may violate Orange County ordinances, which regulate smoke emissions and open burning practices. Always use dry wood to stay compliant and protect air quality.

How to Season Wood Properly

- Split, stack, and cover firewood for 6–12 months.
- Split logs dry faster, and smaller pieces burn cleaner.

How to Test Firewood

1. Split the wood.
2. Insert the moisture meter probes into the freshly split side.
3. Follow the instructions for your meter.



For more information, visit www.ocfl.net/OpenBurningRules.

Remember: Protect your community by burning responsibly. Where there's smoke, there's air pollution!

Environmental Protection Division Air Quality Management

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