

## Pests and Diseases Carried on Firewood

We already have gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and oak wilt in Wisconsin, but not everywhere in the state. We would like to keep it that way as long as possible. Other pests have not been found yet in Wisconsin, and we want to keep them out. And don't forget that there may be pests and diseases we don't even know about yet that could be carried on firewood.

### Pests already in Wisconsin



**Gypsy moth:** Gypsy moth caterpillars are voracious leaf-eaters. They prefer oak, but will feed on over 300 species of trees and shrubs. Weakened hardwood trees may die if attacked two or more years in a row, and conifers may die after a single defoliation. They are most prevalent in the eastern 2/3 of Wisconsin. Each female lays several buff-colored fuzzy egg masses that can be easily moved on firewood, and may contain up to 1,000 eggs each.



**Emerald ash borer (EAB):** EAB larvae feed under the bark of ash trees, eventually girdling and killing the tree. Emerald-green adults make D-shaped holes in the bark as they emerge. They are most prevalent in southeastern Wisconsin. Live larvae may be under the bark of untreated ash firewood.



**Oak wilt:** Northern red oaks, black oaks and pin oaks are particularly susceptible to this fatal fungal disease. The fungus is carried by sap-feeding beetles. It is well-established in southern Wisconsin, but not yet detected in many northern forests or the Door Peninsula. Beetles and fungus can move in firewood.

### Pests not found in Wisconsin to date



**Asian longhorned beetle (ALB):** These large black and white beetles have extremely long antennae. The larvae tunnel deep into the heartwood, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients and killing the tree. Adults emerge through perfectly round, pencil-sized holes. ALB resembles a native beetle, the white-spotted sawyer, but ALB is shinier and has bluish legs.



**Mountain pine beetle:** A beetle about the size of a grain of rice that lives under the bark, this insect has killed entire mountainsides of trees in the West. It carries a fungus and gathers huge numbers of beetles to overwhelm tree defenses, enabling it to kill healthy trees. It could kill white, red and jack pine in Wisconsin.



**Spotted lanternfly:** This sap-feeder has recently established itself in the eastern U.S. It feeds on walnut, tree-of-heaven, grape vines, hops, pines and fruit trees. It may lay egg masses on firewood.



**Thousand cankers disease:** The walnut twig beetle and other insects can carry a tree-killing fungus that attacks walnut and butternut. It has caused widespread death in trees in western states and impacted forest health in the East. Both the fungus and the insects can move in firewood.

## For more information

### Online:

<https://datcp.wi.gov> Search "pests"  
<https://datcp.wi.gov> Search "firewood"  
<https://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

Call: (715) 891-8158

Email: [timothy.allen@wi.gov](mailto:timothy.allen@wi.gov)

### To report a suspected pest new to Wisconsin:

Call: (866) 440-7523

Email: [DATCPPestHotline@wi.gov](mailto:DATCPPestHotline@wi.gov)

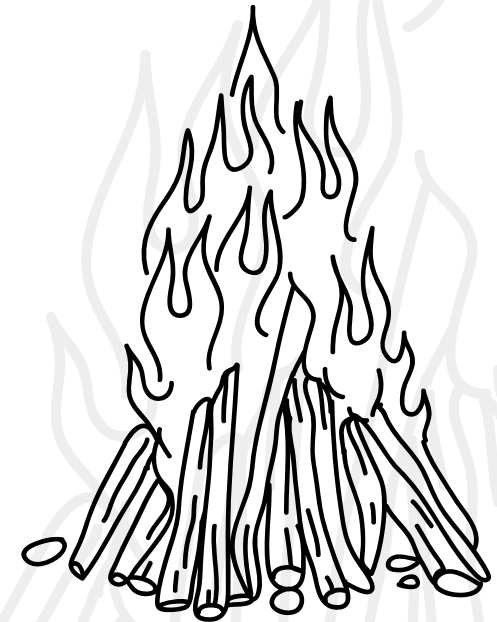


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Photos: Gypsy Moth- USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org, Emerald Ash Borer, Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org, Oak wilt- M. B. Price, UW-Madison, Asian longhorn beetle - Timothy T. Boyle, DATCP, Mountain pine beetle - Ron Long, Simon Fraser University, Bugwood.org, Spotted lanternfly - Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org, Thousand cankers disease - Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

# Protect Wisconsin Trees

## Don't Move Firewood



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection**

## NO CAMPING TRIP OR WEEKEND

## AT THE CABIN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A CAMPFIRE,

but firewood can carry harmful pests and diseases to new areas. If you live in parts of Wisconsin where gypsy moth caterpillars sometimes eat all the leaves from trees in spring, or where emerald ash borer has left dead trees lining roadways, you know too well what can happen. Here's some advice to help you protect our trees -- whether it's from pests we want to slow down or keep out of the state entirely.

### Certified Firewood

You can find firewood labeled as certified by either DATCP or USDA. DATCP-certified firewood has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. It can travel freely anywhere in the state. USDA-certified firewood has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It can travel freely to nearly every state. Both have been heat-treated or processed to reduce the risk of carrying pests and diseases. Look for one of the labels shown here.



### Remember:

- Wisconsin state parks and state forests allow only firewood cut within 10 miles, or certified firewood. Most state parks have legal firewood available for sale.
- Chequamegon National Forest and other federal lands allow only firewood cut within 25 miles, or certified firewood.
- Tribal lands, private campgrounds, and town or county campgrounds may have their own requirements. Check before you leave home.

**When you pack up for that trip, keep these things in mind:**

### DO:

Buy firewood near your destination. Check [firewoodscout.org](http://firewoodscout.org) to find local vendors, or

Buy certified firewood, with a DATCP or USDA label.

Burn all firewood at your destination.

### DON'T:

Bring uncertified firewood from home. Move uncertified firewood long distances.

Bring any leftover firewood back home, especially from other states.

### Quarantines

Quarantines restrict the movement of uncertified firewood that can carry harmful pests into and within the state. For example, Wisconsin's gypsy moth quarantine prohibits moving firewood within Wisconsin from counties where it is already established to the western counties. Other quarantines prevent moving firewood into Wisconsin. For example, quarantines restrict moving firewood from places where Asian longhorned beetle, thousand cankers disease, and mountain pine beetle have been found. Quarantines may be imposed by the state or federal government, or by Native American tribes. Moving regulated items out of quarantine areas could result in financial penalties of up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to six months.