



Public Service Announcement

Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights & Measures
5630 S. Broadway
Eureka, CA 95503
707-441-5260

WHEN BUYING FIREWOOD MAKE SURE IT'S A CORD!

THE CORD IS THE STANDARD MEASUREMENT FOR SALE

The Sealer of Weights & Measures would like to remind the public that while there are many wood dealers eager to sell firewood, how does the consumer know if their getting a good, fair deal? The only way to know for sure is to measure what is sold.

Firewood has its own special unit of measure called a “cord”. Firewood, in units of one-eighth of a cord and above, must be sold by the cord or the fractions of a cord. A cord of wood by law must equal 128 cubic feet. To determine if you have a cord, the wood must be measured when it is “ranked and well-stowed”. This means the wood is stacked neatly in a row with the pieces of wood parallel and touching with as few gaps as possible. If, when measured, the width times the height, times the length equals 128 cubic feet, it is a cord of wood.

Important Points to Remember When Buying Firewood:

- 1. Buy wood by the cord (128 cubic feet = 4'x4'x8') or fractions of a cord.***
- 2. Get a receipt that includes the quantity and type of wood purchased. The sale price, date and seller's name and address.***

Finally, if you believe you have been shorted on the quantity delivered, contact the seller to correct the problem. Try to maintain the wood in the condition it was delivered, take a photograph, and do not burn any of the wood. If the seller can't or will not correct the problem, contact the Humboldt County Department of Weights and Measures office at (707) 441-5260 or the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Division of Measurement Standards at (916) 229-3000.