**What is a cord?**

Firewood quantities are sometimes difficult to estimate. The official measurement of firewood is a “cord.” To help you make an accurate estimate, the following are examples of how some common units of firewood measurements compare to a full cord.

A standard **full cord** is a large amount of wood. It measures, with a tightly piled wood stack, four (4) feet high by four (4) feet wide by eight (8) feet long (4’ X 4’ X 8’) and has a volume of 128 cubic feet. A half cord of wood = eight (8) feet long by four (4) feet wide and two (2) feet high.

A **face** cord or **rick** of wood is four feet high by eight feet long and is as wide as the individual firewood pieces, but averages 16 inches wide. A 16-inch wide face cord is equal to one-third of a **full** cord.

Face cord (16’’) X 3 = One full cord

**Two full-size pick-up truck loads** (8 foot bed) equals **one full cord**, whether the wood is stacked carefully so it is about level with the truck box sides, or is thrown into the truck box with the top of the pile about as high as the cab.

Full size pick-up truck (8’) X 2 = One full cord

**Four compact pick-up truck loads** (6 foot bed) equals **one full cord** of wood, whether the wood is stacked carefully so it is about level with the truck box sides, or is thrown into the truck box with the top of the pile about as high as the cab.

Compact pick-up truck (6’) X 4 = One full cord

A **full** cord measures 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 8 ft., and is the official, standard firewood measure. However, four foot pieces are never used for home heating, and dealers rarely sell four foot pieces. This is why buying firewood can be confusing.

Information was taken from <http://www.woodheat.org/cord-wood.html>

**Example of a Cord of Wood**

 

4 Feet

4 Feet

8 Feet

**Examples of ½ Cord Pickup Loads**

