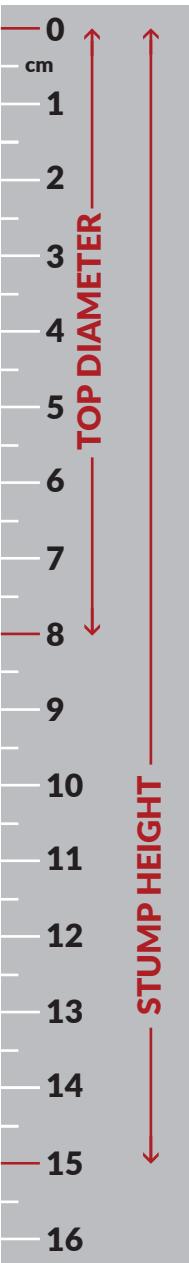




# Guide to Domestic Woodcutting

## Valuable wood

Responsible wood use is about obtaining the best value from any tree cut. Forest stands with sawlogs should not be cut for firewood. Leaving low stumps and small tree tops mean less wood wasted. Stumps should be no higher than 15 centimetres (six inches), and tops should be no larger than eight centimetres (three inches) in diameter.



## Fuel handling

To avoid spills and leaks, proper fuel and oil handling techniques are important. Even a small spill or leak can have damaging effects on water, fish and wildlife.

Fuel must be stored in CSA approved containers and refueling should not take place within 30 metres of any water body. The use of waste oil as chain lubricant is prohibited and all oil should

be brought out of the woods and disposed of properly. If a fuel spill or leak does occur, it should be contained and cleaned up immediately. If you

are handling large quantities of fuel and oil, spill kits are useful and highly recommended. If the volume of a spill is more than 70 litres, it must be immediately reported to the Canadian Coast Guard Spill Report Line at (709) 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089.



## Wildfire prevention

Generally, the forest fire season in Newfoundland and Labrador runs from April to October. During forest fire season, domestic woodcutters are required to have an Operating Permit, in addition to their Cutting Permits. These permits may be obtained at any Forestry Office. During fire season, domestic woodcutters must also adhere to the following requirements:

- Chainsaws and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) must be equipped with appropriate mufflers and spark arrestors to prevent flammable debris from escaping.
- When using a chainsaw or riding an ATV on forested land, residents are required to have a fire extinguisher that contains a minimum of 225 grams of ABC class dry chemical.

## Where can I cut firewood?

Domestic woodcutting is only permitted in designated areas on Crown land. Every domestic cutting permit contains a map with specific information domestic cutters should know. Cutting within approved boundaries ensures wood is cut in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. If you are unsure of your area, check with your local Forestry Office before you cut.

## Snag and wildlife trees

Wildlife will often depend on trees to survive. In particular, birds use dead trees to nest and feed on insects. When cutting wood, it is advisable to leave several trees in an area for wildlife to use. When selecting trees to leave consider:

- forest animals tend to prefer trees with poor form and various levels of decay;
- the most valuable wildlife trees are greater than 50 centimetres (20 inches) in diameter;
- birch, white spruce, and dead trees without branches are the most resistant trees to wind;
- trees can include dead (snags), live standing, and clumps of trees that have little commercial value;
- individual trees are good, but clumps can also remain;
- large living trees with existing cavities, wounds where rot can occur, broken tops, and dead branches are good candidates; and
- where possible leave both hardwood and softwood trees of different sizes in clumps



## Protecting regeneration

When cutting wood, ensure small trees and seedlings are protected so they may grow into our future firewood and sawlogs.

## Buffer zones

Water is a valuable resource which must be protected from pollution, soil erosion and changes in temperature. During cutting operations, environmental guidelines require a strip of trees to be left around all bodies of water such as streams, brooks, rivers, ponds and lakes. These trees act as buffers and provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife. Buffer zones help regulate water temperatures and prevent sediment from ending up in water bodies. In domestic woodcutting operations, these buffers may vary in width from 30 metres to more than 500 metres depending on the resource being protected. Domestic woodcutters are reminded to review their cutting permit conditions, to determine the specific buffer zone widths for their area of operation.



## Protecting our forests

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to responsible stewardship of the province's forests, sustainability of the resource, and ensuring forest related activities on Crown land are conducted under approved environmental procedures.

Forest operations managed by the province are monitored through an Environmental Management System, which is currently certified to the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

This leaflet has been developed to provide domestic woodcutters with an overview of their responsibilities under the system.

**Stay compliant.  
Review your cutting permit conditions and maps.**

For more information on our environmental management system, please contact your local district office, or visit: [gov.nl.ca/fal](http://gov.nl.ca/fal)

Forestry, Agriculture and Lands  
P.O. Box 2006  
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8