

## **The Detailed Guide to Wisconsin's Regulations on Transport, Utilization and Disposal of Ash Wood.**

Emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantines regulate the movement of ash wood and hardwood firewood. The goal of the quarantine is to prevent the spread of this pest from quarantined counties (where the pest is present), to counties where it is not yet established. This document provides detailed guidance on EAB quarantine regulations as well as general rules for the transport, utilization and disposal of wood.

Although moving ash wood and hardwood firewood *within* a quarantined area is legal, EAB is not always present in many parts of the quarantine. Be a good neighbor and take precautions to prevent spreading EAB to other communities within the quarantine. Learn about voluntary precautions you can take when moving ash logs, firewood, debris or chips within a quarantined area in [Recommendations to Reduce Spread of EAB in Potentially Infested Wood](#).

### **Regulations on Transportation of Ash Wood Materials**

#### **From a quarantined to a non-quarantined Area**

Movement of ash wood out of the quarantined area is prohibited except when done under a compliance agreement with regulatory agencies. The compliance agreement specifies precautions that will be taken by the signatory to prevent escape of the quarantined pest, in this case EAB.

#### **Who needs a compliance agreement?**

All ash wood producers, transporters and processors must sign a compliance agreement with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) officials or the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) officials before ash wood materials can be moved out of a quarantine area.

- Producers – Anyone who takes down infested trees and moves the material off site. Examples include loggers, commercial arborists or municipal crews. Producers need a compliance agreement to move the regulated material if the destination is outside the quarantine area.
- Truckers and Transporters - Truckers and transporters who move ash logs and materials out of a quarantine area must sign a compliance agreement stating that they will:
  - deliver regulated (ash) logs and materials only to approved mills or processors with a compliance agreement, and
  - ship the material only between October 1 and March 31.
- Mills and Processors - The mill or processor must be visited by a DATCP or APHIS official and a compliance agreement must be completed and signed, stating that their operations will prevent the spread of EAB.

#### **How to get a compliance agreement**

Contact DATCP at 608-224-4574 or [tim.allen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tim.allen@wisconsin.gov) to apply for a compliance agreement. Compliance agreements are not complicated and the process to obtain one is simple. Sample copies of compliance agreements are available at: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

### **Actions required by a compliance agreement for the EAB quarantine**

- Ash logs and materials will only be moved out of the quarantined area between October 1 and March 31.
- Mills and other processors located outside a quarantine area can only receive ash logs and materials from within the quarantine area between October 1 and March 31.
- Ash logs and materials must be processed by April 30.
- All ash logs or materials at the processor, whether from inside or outside the quarantine area, are considered regulated unless the mills or other facilities can segregate and mark the ash logs or green lumber. If they can keep the different materials separate, then the other non-quarantine ash logs or lumber can be processed as usual.
- Ash green lumber must be free of bark prior to leaving the mill according to USDA specifications.
- Residual bark and wood left over from debarking operations (which require removing the wood to one-half inch deep under the bark) must be disposed of using an approved method by April 30. This includes:
  - Chipping - bark and wood must be chipped to less than one inch in two dimensions.
  - Composting - bark and wood must be composted so that temperatures reach at least 140 degrees F for four days and the compost pile must be turned after four days.
  - Burning or otherwise destroying the bark and wood.

### **Reminder of general regulations on transporting woody material of any kind...not just ash.**

If wood material is transported for use including mulch, compost, boiler fuel or daily cover at a landfill, no approval or license is needed from the Department of Natural Resources waste program. If wood material is transported to be burned without energy recovery or to be landfilled, a solid waste transportation license is required.

### **Utilization Options and Regulations for Ash Wood**

Ash wood, whether or not it is infested with EAB, may be used for many products including:

- lumber
- chips for mulch or as a carbon source for composting
- boiler fuel
- firewood

#### **Lumber**

- Kiln dried, square-edged lumber is exempt from Wisconsin EAB regulations and may move freely.
- Lumber made of ash wood that is still green, such as pallet pieces, may only leave the quarantined area under a state or federal compliance agreement because EAB may still be alive within the wood.

#### **Wood chips**

- If ash wood chips are to leave the quarantined area, they must be ground to less than 1" by 1" on 2 sides to ensure all EAB larvae within are killed.
- Ash wood chips staying within the quarantined area may be larger. Even though some EAB may escape the chipping process when larger chips are produced, chipping still greatly reduces the number of EAB that will successfully mature.

### **Boiler fuel**

- Wood may be used to fuel an industrial boiler if authorized by a DNR Air Management operation permit. The resulting wood ash may be subject to testing prior to disposal.
- Ash woody material destined for use as fuel may only be moved out of the EAB quarantine under a state or federal compliance agreement.

### **Firewood**

- Hardwood firewood may only leave the quarantined area if it is processed to specified standards by a vendor certified by DATCP or APHIS. This “certified firewood” is exempt from Wisconsin EAB regulations because it has been processed to destroy potential hitchhiking insects and diseases. It may be moved freely.
- Ash firewood may be used within the quarantined area but due to the ease of spreading EAB in firewood, follow [recommended precautions](#) to prevent spread.
- Public and private campgrounds may regulate the firewood that is allowed entry. [Firewood regulations at state campgrounds](#) are posted on the DNR website. Contact private or county campgrounds directly about their regulations.

### **Disposal Options and Regulations for Ash Wood**

If ash wood cannot be utilized by one of the options listed above, it may be disposed of using the following options:

- Disposal in a landfill
- Non-landfill burial
- Burn in an Air Curtain Destructor or incinerator without energy recovery
- Burn in a licensed wood burning site

### **Landfill**

- Landfills may be able to accept wood waste for disposal.
- A written exemption may be needed from the DNR Waste Program for brush material.
- Ground or chipped brush/wood may be acceptable as daily cover at a landfill with DNR Waste Program approval.

### **Non-landfill burial**

- Wood waste may be disposed of by burial without a DNR Waste Program approval or license as long as it is not in a floodplain and is done in a nuisance free and environmentally sound manner. At least 12 to 13 inches of soil cover is needed to prevent emergence of EAB adults.
- However, burying of large amounts of wood waste may preclude future land uses of property due to methane gas formation and instability concerns.
- A DNR construction site storm water permit under NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code is necessary if the burial results in a land disturbance of one or more acres.

### **Air curtain destructors**

- An air curtain destructor is a device which uses a fixed dimension pit and mechanical air supply to reduce the amount of smoke emitted.
- Air curtain destructors must be approved and licensed by the DNR Waste Program.

**Wood burning site**

- This option is discouraged unless no other alternatives are available.
- All burning must conform to local and state fire protection regulations/permitting and be done in a safe manner.
- Wood waste may be open-burned on the property where it is generated without DNR Waste Program approvals or licenses.
- Wood may not be transported off site and open burned without a DNR Waste Program approval and license. Existing licensed wood burning sites may be utilized as long as the pile is burned in accordance with DNR Air Management Program recommendations and DNR Waste Program rules and approvals.
- More information on open burning can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov>, keyword “open burning”

## Official Contact Information

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9545 or [Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov)

Wisconsin DNR Waste and Materials Management  
solid waste field staff directory:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=solid+waste+requirements>

Wisconsin DNR Watershed Management  
Stormwater staff:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/contacts.html>

Wisconsin DNR Air Management staff:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/airquality/contacts.html>

Wisconsin DNR Forest Products Utilization and Marketing  
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Fire Protection information  
Burn Permits: <http://dnr.wi.gov> keyword "burn permit"  
Open Burning: <http://dnr.wi.gov> keyword "open burning"