



## Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program

# ASH WOOD PROCESSING OPTIONS FOR THE HOMEOWNER

### Managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infested Wood

A key aspect of reducing the spread of emerald ash borer is properly managing the wood, brush and stump grindings generated by removal of infested trees. This requires an understanding of the processes that will destroy the insect, but also the federal, state and local regulations that apply to those processes. The preferred method of managing this wood is to have it processed in a manner that utilizes the wood and eliminates the risk of spreading EAB to new areas. If you suspect you have EAB, please contact the EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803 for confirmation. Additional information can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

### Processing Options to Eliminate EAB

The following options are available for processing infested ash wood to kill EAB or prevent completion of its life cycle and spread to un-infested trees:

- **Chipping:** Ash wood, brush and stump grindings must be chipped or ground down to a maximum size of no more than 1" in two dimensions (two of the three measurements - length, width and depth - must be 1" or smaller). The typical chipper used in tree care operations will not reliably create chips that meet this specification, but some may if fed through the chipper multiple times. Check with your manufacturer. Chippers equipped with a 1" screen will assure compliance. No Department of Natural Resources (DNR) waste program approvals or licenses are necessary for grinding or use of this material.
- **Debarking for lumber:** Complete removal of all bark plus ½ inch of wood. The debarked wood can be milled into lumber. Any bark remaining on the lumber must be removed before the lumber can be moved out of quarantined areas. Note that the removed bark and wood must be chipped down to a maximum size of 1" by 1" in 2 dimensions. *(This option is designed for the professional but some homeowners may have the equipment to perform this task)*
- **Burning:** Wood, brush or chips may be burned prior to insect emergence. This should be used as a last resort.
  - **NOTE:** Before any burning is initiated homeowners should check with their community to see if they have any burning ordinances.
- **Aging:** Ash wood material that is aged for 2 years after tree death will be free of EAB. The wood will have dried to the point EAB can no longer survive in it and any EAB present when the tree died or that infested the wood shortly after cutting will have emerged during the 2 year period. If this processing option is used, it should be understood that EAB will continue to emerge during the 2 year aging period and this wood poses a risk of infestation to living ash in the area where it is being aged. This wood must not be moved out of a quarantined area during the aging period.



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**Please note that a compliance agreement from DATCP is necessary to move any ash material such as firewood, lumber, mulch, or wood chips out of quarantined areas.**

### Storage Until Processing

- Adult emerald ash borers can emerge from infested wood from May through September. Infested wood should be processed by April 30 to avoid risk of emergence.
- Double-bagging: If processing before adult emergence is not possible, or if infested wood is found during an emergence period, double-bagging can be used to contain emerging adults. This procedure only is feasible for small quantities of infested wood. Double bag in 4mil or thicker plastic bags. Keep in closed bags until October 1 to contain emerging adults. This is a temporary storage plan; processing should occur after bagging to destroy EAB.
- Wood may be stored temporarily either on site or at dedicated collection sites if your community has one open to the public.

**Some processing options for EAB infested wood are costly and complex. If you suspect you have EAB, please contact the EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803 for confirmation. Additional information can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).**

### Official Contact Information

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Wisconsin DNR Waste and Materials Management  
County contacts:  
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Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program Web Site  
<http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>