



# Options for Safe Handling of Ash Tree Wood

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Although wise to follow these guidelines no matter where and what kind of tree you have, the information below applies only to ash trees located in Boulder County, CO*

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## REGULATED MATERIALS

**Q. I hear that any tree I cut down or limbs that are pruned from certain trees are regulated under the EAB Quarantine. What does this mean?**

- A. Emerald ash borer ‘hides’ unseen inside tree wood and branches and is spread when this material moves. The articles that are regulated by Colorado State law include:
- The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) insects themselves, in any stage of development.
  - All plants and plant parts of the genus *Fraxinus*, including but not limited to:
    - Logs and green lumber;
    - Nursery stock, scion wood, and bud wood;
    - Chips and mulch, either composted or uncomposted;
    - Stumps, roots and branches.
  - Firewood (wood cut in lengths of 4 feet or shorter) of any non-coniferous (hardwood) species.
  - Equipment such as chippers and trucks that may have large pieces of ash wood remaining on or within it.

Exceptions to this are:

- Ash seeds and leaves.
- Processed lumber that is free of bark and wane, kiln dried and with squared edges
- Finished wood products without bark, including furniture, baskets, and baseball bats.

Any limbs, debris or wood from any ash tree that is pruned or removed within Boulder County, regardless of what condition it is in or what it died from, can only be moved to or disposed of in certain places unless dealt with in an approved manner.

**Q. What can I do with ash material from Boulder County?**

- A. Refer to the list of businesses approved to handle regulated ash material in the quarantine area at [www.eabcolorado.com](http://www.eabcolorado.com). Material can be utilized within the quarantine for any legal purpose.

There are multiple options available, a few are listed below (Check [www.eabcolorado.com](http://www.eabcolorado.com) for a full list).



- Ash material can be brought to one of three landfill sites within the quarantine area, these include:
  - Front Range Landfill & Denver Regional Landfill in Erie CO
  - Republic Landfill off Highway 93
  - Western Disposal in Boulder
- The wood can be reused or repurposed by Sawyers and Sawmills
  - Singing Saw Woodworks (Boulder)
  - Sustainable Arbor Works (Boulder)
  - Companies with portable saws, who may come to your location in Boulder to mill the wood:
    - Baldwin Wood Working
    - Token Creek Cedar
  - Companies that may arrange to move your wood to their facility under special permit:
    - TC Woods
- The wood may be chipped or mulched in tiny pieces on-site. Contact any of the landscape and tree care professionals on the list of approved companies. In order to leave the quarantine area these pieces must be verified to meet the following size requirement: 1" x 1" in two dimensions.
- The wood may be kept on site to be burned as firewood.

**Q. Why is all hardwood firewood regulated instead of only ash firewood?**

A. Firewood is defined as wood cut in lengths of 4 feet or smaller. Once a log has been cut and split, it is extremely difficult to differentiate ash wood from other hardwood species. While this is especially true for the casual firewood user and property owners, the experience of EAB regulatory agencies across the nation has shown that the same has often applied to firewood businesses. Therefore, due to the potential risk associated with moving EAB-infested firewood, all hardwood firewood is regulated.

*\* There are no EAB quarantine restrictions on coniferous species of firewood, such as pine, spruce and fir. Pine, spruce and fir firewood may be moved freely.*

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## MOVEMENT OF WOOD IN AND OUT OF QUARANTINE

### Q. Can I bring firewood from a non-quarantined area into a quarantined area?

A. There are no legal restrictions on firewood that originates from a non-quarantined county. Firewood is allowed to come into the quarantine area from a non-quarantined county. *Once the firewood enters into a quarantine area, it becomes regulated and cannot leave without proper treatment.*

### Q. Can ash material move outside the quarantine area during the dormant winter months?

A. *Only under special permits to facilities approved by Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) or USDA APHIS.* The usual flight season for the adult Emerald Ash Borer is May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. During the non-flight season of October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> (which may vary from year to year) regulated ash materials may move outside of the quarantine area untreated in an enclosed truck to an approved site for winter storage. All ash materials must be treated before the adult flight season begins again on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the company removing the ash material from the quarantine area and the company that will be doing the treatment need to be under a Compliance Agreement with CDA and must have special permits to move untreated material.

### Q. Does the quarantine affect movement of hardwood (non-ash) nursery stock or hardwood (non-ash) wood products?

A. In regards to EAB, there are *no restrictions* on the intrastate movement of non-ash hardwood products such as nursery stock, logs, branches, green lumber or chips in Colorado. However, the movement of all hardwood firewood out of the quarantine area is regulated.

### Q. Does the quarantine affect the movement of material within the quarantine area?

A. No, there are no legal restrictions on the movement of ash or hardwood firewood within the quarantine. This means, if ash trees or hardwood firewood are located in Boulder County it must stay in Boulder County (unless a company has a compliance agreement with CDA and USDA APHIS to treat and move the wood appropriately).



## Q. How can ash wood leave the quarantine area?

A. Ash wood may leave the quarantine area *only under the following scenarios*

- **All companies and individuals moving ash material out of the quarantine area must have a compliance agreement with CDA and USDA APHIS.**
  - Ash chips or mulch may leave the quarantine area if chip size is verified to be 1" by 1" in two dimensions and the chipping process is inspected..
  - Ash lumber may leave the quarantine area if the bark and ½" of wood is removed and the process inspected.
  - Hardwood firewood may leave the quarantine area if heat treated and inspected.

The following gives more details of the procedures and schedules that must be followed in order for ash material to leave the quarantine area (Boulder County). Treatment methods become important when applying for certificates or when receiving ash materials from an EAB quarantine area. These treatment schedules, if required, will be written into your Compliance Agreement.

**Compliance Agreements will be needed for the following Handling and Treatment of Regulated Ash Materials:**

Regulated Article	Mitigation and Treatment Measures
Firewood of all hardwood species  (Firewood is defined as wood in lengths or 4 feet or shorter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove bark and an additional ½ inch of wood<sup>1</sup>: wane-free ( no edges /corners with bark)</li> <li>• Heat treatment (T314-a) in a heat treatment facility approved by APHIS</li> <li>• Fumigate according to treatment schedule T404-b-1-1 (Methyl bromide fumigation at NAP-tarpaulin or chamber)<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Chips and mulch of all hardwood species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chip or mulch to &lt; 1" in at least two dimensions. Material may move with Compliance Agreement and a Regulated Articles in Transit Form. Chip or mulch to &gt; 1" cannot be moved without treatment</li> </ul>



Nursery Stock of <i>Fraxinus</i> spp. itself	No treatment available. Nursery stock cannot be moved from a quarantined area.
Green lumber of <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove bark and an additional ½ inch of wood<sup>1</sup>: wane-free ( no edges /corners with bark)</li> <li>• Kiln sterilization treatment (T404-b-4)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Fumigate according to treatment schedule (404-b-1-1 (Methyl bromide fumigation at NAP-tarpaulin or chamber)<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Logs and lumber of <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove bark and an additional ½ inch of wood<sup>1</sup>: wane-free( no edges /corners with bark)</li> <li>• Kiln drying treatment (T404-b-4)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Heat treatment (T314-a) in a heat treatment facility approved by APHIS <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Fumigate according to treatment schedule T404-b-1-1 (Methyl bromide fumigation at NAP-tarpaulin or chamber)<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Other material including wood waste, living, dead, cut or falling including stumps, roots, branches of <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chip or mulch to less than one inch in at least two dimensions</li> </ul>



<sup>1</sup> The bark and wood removed will be regulated separately. If intended for interstate movement the removed bark and wood must be treated as described in Table 1 for chips and mulch. If produced at a mill located outside the quarantine area but approved to handle green ash logs or lumber from within the quarantine area, wood waste must be treated or destroyed prior to adult flight season.

<sup>2</sup> Consult a local USDA APHIS Official at 303-371-3355 or Laura Pottorff at [laura.pottorff@state.co.us](mailto:laura.pottorff@state.co.us)

<sup>3</sup> Detailed specifications for treatments can be found in the current edition of the PPQ Treatment Manual online at:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/manuals/ports/treatment.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/treatment.shtml)

<sup>4</sup> The usual flight season for the adult Emerald Ash Borer is May 1 through September 30 (this may vary from year to year depending on the weather). During the non-flight season of October 1 through April 30, regulated ash materials may move untreated in an enclosed truck to an approved site for winter storage. All ash materials must be treated before the adult flight season begins again. Both the company removing the ash material from the quarantine area and the company doing the treatment must be under a Compliance Agreement with CDA.

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## COMPLIANCE AGREEMENTS

### Q. What is a Compliance Agreement?

A. A Compliance Agreement is a document that describes how a company will properly treat Regulated Articles to mitigate the spread of EAB and adhere to the quarantine law. A U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) or Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) representative is available to discuss Compliance Agreements in more detail at the request of any business or other entity involved in moving Regulated Articles. USDA APHIS or CDA can provide training on EAB and also help determine how any business can lower the risk of spreading EAB with the least amount of disruption to business practices.

### Q. When are Compliance Agreements not required?

A. Compliance Agreements are NOT required when:

- Ash trees are pruned, felled and handled outside the Boulder County area (i.e. cutting, hauling, milling, etc.).
- Materials are moved from a non-quarantined area outside of Boulder County to inside of the quarantine area. Once ash material or hardwood firewood enters the quarantine area, it becomes regulated material, regardless of where it originated.

### Q. If I sign a Compliance Agreement, will I be required to keep records?

A. Yes. If your company ships Regulated Articles under a Compliance Agreement or with USDA APHIS or CDA certification, you will need to maintain those shipping and / or certification records for 36 months, unless otherwise specified.

### Q. Do I have to keep records of shipments or treatments that do not involve Regulated Articles?

A. CDA does not require records for treatment or shipment of non-Regulated Articles.





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Q. If I have further questions about EAB or if I think I have found EAB, who do I contact?

A. For more EAB info: [www.eabcolorado.com](http://www.eabcolorado.com) or 1-888-248-5535

For Compliance Agreements: Laura Pottorff (303) 869-9070 or [laura.pottorff@state.co.us](mailto:laura.pottorff@state.co.us)

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