

Cookie Wood

Saving "Waste" for Heat

By Jaden

There are some people out there who will only burn hardwood for heat. There's even pickier people who will only burn certain types of hardwood. Well, the heck with that. That's almost as bad as buying fuel oil for these ridiculous prices. Good quantities of hardwood are hard to come buy and it would cost a fortune to buy it. We burn anything that burns.

We have a good supplier right locally that lets us have as much wood as we want for free. It's easy to get to and it's already cut to about 4' lengths. Well, cheap's good free's better.

When we cut up the wood to stove length we always have small chunks left over. Years ago dad started calling them cookies...the name stuck. Some people would consider them useless and load them up and take them to the dump. Not us. We separated them from the rest of the wood and let them dry separately. Then we start filling 55-gallon drums and large trash cans. When those are full the rest get thrown into the cookie bin. Any leftovers from carpentry projects also go into the pile. If it burns, it's firewood.



The cookie bin

We start burning the stuff in the cans first, then refill the cans from the drums and then keep refilling cans from the bin. Yes, it's a little bit of a PITA, BUT it saves the real wood for the colder months. Cookies are burnt during this time of year when only a small fire is needed.



Ready for the stove

One year we burnt cookies for 3 months before getting into the real woodpile. Not bad. There's about 3 months worth of real wood saved.

RIGHT NOW as I type this it is 38 degrees F outside and the wind is blowing. Pretty nippy out there. There is a small fire going in the stove and it is 70 degrees F on the other side of the room.



We are pretty conservative people. Why waste all of this heat just to avoid a little extra effort? Why be anal and not burn anything other than hard wood...that's just laziness. Clean the chimney a little more often.

Use your head. A little extra effort can save you \$\$ in the long run.

I do caution against burning pressure treated wood, plywood and chipboard because of all the chemicals and glues. However, we occasionally burn a little bit of it here and haven't had a problem.