

# Recommendations to Voluntarily Reduce Spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Potentially Infested Wood

Revised September 2022

## Purpose

Movement of emerald ash borer (EAB) **is no longer regulated** by federal and Wisconsin state governments. The quarantines previously in place have been rescinded or are in the process of being rescinded, and the precautions to prevent knowing movement of EAB in NR 40 are no longer required. Moving ash wood is permitted to and from anywhere in the state, except onto some tribal lands and state properties, which regulate firewood entering the property. Movement of ash wood is also allowed out of Wisconsin, though the receiving mill or business should check their state or local regulations that may affect wood shipped from Wisconsin. As of September 2022, some surrounding states such as [Minnesota](#) have an exclusionary quarantine on ash logs entering counties that are not yet confirmed as having EAB.

Although movement within Wisconsin is legal, we urge individuals, governmental agencies at all levels, and businesses to protect Wisconsin forests by taking **voluntary precautions** to prevent moving EAB and other invasive species and diseases into uninfested areas.

## Biological Reasoning for Recommendations

EAB adults usually emerge in waves from infested wood between May 1 and Sept 30 to mate and lay eggs. For this reason, it is important that fresh, potentially infested ash wood is not left at uninfested sites during this period.

EAB spreads very slowly on its own – less than ½ mile a year. EAB's spread is rapidly accelerated when infested firewood or other ash wood is moved into uninfested areas. In Wisconsin, many communities and woodlands within the state are still EAB-free.

To help prevent the spread to these uninfested areas, it is best to treat hardwood firewood and ash material as though it is potentially infested. By treating all ash products and firewood with caution, you are acting as a good neighbor and steward of the land for fellow residents. You can significantly reduce the risk of your material being the source of a new infestation by following these voluntary recommendations.

## Recommendations

### *Ash firewood*

It is recommended that firewood be obtained near where it will be used, ideally within 10 miles. If cut trees that will be used for firewood are aged on site for two years or more, any EAB that

*Please note: The quarantine line for **spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth)** can affect the movement of firewood in the western half of Wisconsin. For more information, [click here](#).*

may have been within the wood will have emerged or died. Firewood aged two years or more poses little risk of introducing EAB and most other pests and diseases of living trees.

To protect the forest resource, state properties will continue to only allow in firewood obtained within 10 miles of the property or campground, or firewood certified by [WI DATCP or USDA-APHIS](#) as treated to kill any infesting pests or diseases.

### *Ash woodchips*

Chipping infested wood kills many of the EAB larva within it. Those that survive the chipper do not usually complete their growth before the chip dries out or the larva runs out of food.

- If chipping between May 1 and Sept 30, chip the wood at the site where the tree was taken down, or at a local staging area, to prevent adult EAB emerging from the wood at an uninfested site prior to its being chipped.
- If the wood is being chipped between Oct 1 and April 30, the wood may be moved prior to chipping.
- Before moving equipment that has been used to chip ash, clean out woody debris to minimize risk of transporting un-chipped, infested wood.

### *Ash Green Wood Debris: Limbs, Roots, Slabs or Other Unprocessed Ash Wood*

Keep ash green wood debris within 25 miles of where it originated. It is best if ash debris is chipped.

Tree care professionals: between May 1 and Sept 30, if faced with a partial load of wood at the end of the day, consider the likelihood it is infested with EAB when deciding whether to leave or move the load. If the load includes ash with signs it is infested with EAB, it is important that it not be moved to and left at an uninfested site where adult EAB could emerge to start a new infestation prior to chipping or processing.

### *Ash Logs*

Ash logs may be sold to mills in or outside of the state. Mills outside Wisconsin should check their state or local regulation regarding ash wood coming from Wisconsin.

It is best to move ash logs between Oct 1 and March 31, process them and destroy debris (via chipping, burning, composting, etc.) by April 30. If moving logs between May 1 and Sept 30, process the wood and destroy the debris as soon as possible.

Be aware of spongy moth quarantines, which may restrict where the ash logs may be moved if there is not a Compliance Agreement from [WI DATCP or USDA-APHIS](#). For more information, visit [spongymoth.wi.gov](http://spongymoth.wi.gov).