

## Burn this, not that-

Have you seen the latest edition of *This Old House* magazine? In an article written by Thomas Baker, it explains the best wood to burn in your home fireplace. Burning the wrong wood can cause a build up of creosote, causing fires.

Protect your family this season.

# This Old House



## Burn this, not that

Planning to keep cozy this winter with a wood-burning fireplace or stove? When buying firewood, don't be afraid to ask what species you're getting. Dense, heavy hardwoods tend to boast the most Btus, burn a long time, and leave a nice bed of coals. Avoid soft or resinous woods that burn fast, generate lots of smoke, and coat flues with creosote. That said, proper seasoning is key to getting the best burn. Unseasoned, green wood has a moisture content (MC) of over 20 percent, is hard to light, and produces creosote-causing smoke. But let it air-dry for a year and it will burn fine next winter. Can't wait? Look for USDA-certified kiln-dried wood. With a 13.8 percent MC or less, it's good to glow right now. —THOMAS BAKER

### Best wood to burn

- › American beech
- › Red or white oak
- › Shagbark hickory
- › Sugar maple
- › White ash

### Wood to avoid

- › Eucalyptus
- › Fir
- › Poplar
- › Red alder
- › White pine

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