

# PROPER DISPOSAL/TREATMENT OF INSECT OR DISEASE INFECTED WOOD

Red oak wood from oak wilt infected oaks, with bark intact, that is potentially spore-producing (PSPT), ash wood from trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), elm and pine wood from trees infected with Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and Pine Bark Beetle respectively or any elm or pine wood with bark intact shall be properly treated to prevent overland spread of the insects or diseases per City Code and Minnesota Law. This shall be done by one of the following ways:

1. **CHIPPING OR GRINDING**: the chips **are** safe to use after for landscaping purposes, as they **will not** spread the insects or disease if left out in the open; for EAB infected ash, the wood chip dimensions must be no bigger than 1” by 1” by 1”;
2. **DEBARKING**: for EAB infected ash, remove all bark and at least 0.5” of outer wood;
3. **BURNING**: this can be done any time of year, as it is an obvious choice for preventing overland spread; if stored as firewood during the growing season, see below information;
4. **TREATING**: this can be done by heat treating, kiln drying, fumigating, seasoning or another method approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA);
5. **TRANSPORTING**: taking the wood to an approved disposal site in Anoka County; **DO NOT TRANSPORT INFECTED WOOD OUTSIDE THE COUNTY UNLESS IT’S BEEN APPROVED BY THE CITY OR MDA; DO NOT IMPORT WOOD FROM ANOTHER COUNTY UNLESS IT’S BEEN APPROVED BY THE CITY OR MDA; EAB quarantines ARE in effect for Anoka County**; click on [www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/firewood.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/firewood.aspx) for additional information on firewood restrictions and safe handling guidelines;
6. **PROPERLY COVERING AND SEALING**: any wood that is stored with bark intact shall be loosely covered and sealed with a 4 to 6 mil heavy plastic tarp or sheeting; the best way to do this is as follows (see diagram on next page):
  - a. Dig a 4-inch trench **completely around** the wood pile;
  - b. Cover the wood pile with a tarp or sheeting that is large enough to **completely cover** the pile;
  - c. Overlap the ends of the tarp or sheeting, so it extends beyond the trench;
  - d. Fill the trench with dirt to **completely seal** the wood pile.

If dirt cannot be used or a trench cannot be dug because the ground is frozen, too hard to dig, etc., the ends of the tarp shall be weighted down completely on all edges.

*Other Key Information:*

- The diseased wood **does not** need to be properly covered and sealed during the months of November thru March;
- Red oak trees that have died of Oak Wilt in the summer may be potentially spore-producing the following spring and summer only; thus, the wood is only a hazard for **one growing season (April 1 thru October)**;
- Elms and pines are hazardous until the bark falls off the wood, so their may be **one or more growing seasons** when the wood is a hazard;
- A hazardous wood pile that is properly covered and sealed may be uncovered and accessed (i.e. to grab a piece of firewood) as long as it is immediately covered back up and sealed to prevent disease spread.

**Diagram of cross-section of proper covering and sealing  
(all sides completely covered)**

