

# Fire Wood ...by Inspector Weeks

## 613.290.3697

Having talked about chimneys last month, I felt it appropriate that this month should deal with Firewood. Recent inspections in the area have revealed that the storage of firewood might be an issue. There is a right way and a wrong way to store wood. What concerns me is when I see stacks of firewood piled way to high and up against the back or side of the home or garage. First of all, firewood needs to breathe. Air must be able to circulate all around it to dry properly. Stack your firewood in such a way that all sides are exposed to the air. Cover the tops of the piles of wood to protect them from the elements, but not with plastic. Plastic will trap the moisture and the firewood will rot. Rotten wood is not good for burning !!

Secondly, stack the wood away from your house or garage and preferably off the ground. Wood stacked up against the side of a structure will cause the exterior part of the wood siding to rot. Lack of air circulation traps moisture. Not to mention, this then becomes a super place for the mice, carpenter ants and other unwanted bugs to start a nest. Lastly, if at all possible, don't use your garage that is attached to your house as the principle storage area for the complete winter supply of wood. Bring in what you will use for a couple weeks at a time only. Wood spores from wet or drying wood can cause havoc with bugs, moulds and rot. But that's a whole other issue in itself !!!

### Wrong Way



Beautiful Wood Shed



I welcome your questions please forward them to ,  
Inspector Weeks ,c/o Peter Weeks Home Inspections [PWHI@sympatico.ca](mailto:PWHI@sympatico.ca) or  
by phone at 613.290.3697.

**Peter Weeks** has been a Chelsea resident for 18 years. As a general contractor since 1988, he has been doing **Residential Home Inspections** for about three years. He is an Associate Member of OAHI (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home & Property Inspectors) and a member of the BBB and BNI. **He is a Qualified and Fully Insured Inspector.** You may Visit his Website at [www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM](http://www.PWHOMEINSPECTIONS.COM).