

On\_Fire\_Building\_1999.txt

A few notes from a lecture on fire building.

Items for use as tinder (must be completely dry)

Birch Bark  
Shredded inner bark from cedar, shestnut, red elm trees  
Fine wood shavings  
Dead grass, ferns, moss, fungi  
Straw  
Sawdust  
Very fine pitch wood scrapings  
Dead evergreen needles  
Punk (the completely rotted portion of dead logs or trees)  
Evergreen tree knots  
Bird down (fine feathers)  
Down seed heads (milkweed, dry cattails, bulrush, Cananda thistle, goldenrod, dandelion)  
Fine dried vegetable fibers  
Spongy threads of dead puffball  
Dead palm leaves  
Skinlike membrane lining of bamboo  
Lint from pocket and seams  
Charred cloth  
Waxed paper  
Outer bamboo shavings  
Gunpowder  
Cotton  
Lint

Items to be used as kindling (must be completely dry)

Small twigs  
Small strips of wood  
Split wood  
Heavy cardboard  
Pieces of wood removed from the inside of larger peieces  
Wood that has been doused with highly flammable materials such as gasoline,

oil, or wax.

Items to be used as fuel

Dry standing wood and dry dead branches

Dry inside (heart) of fallen tree trunks and large branches

Green wood that is finely split

Dry grasses twisted into bunches

Peat dry enough to burn (this may be found at the top of undercut banks)

Dried animal dung

Animals fats

Coal, oil shale, or oil sand lying on the surface

Characteristics of various woods

Species	Ease of Starting	Cooking Qualities	Sparks	Smoke	Imparted Flavors
Apple	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Little	Excellent
Ash	Fair	Good	Few	Little	Good
Aspen	Fair	Fair	Moderate	Little	Good
Beech	Difficult	Good	Few	Little	Good
Birch	Easy	Fair	Moderate	Moderate	Good
Cedar	Easy	Poor	Many	Many	Bad
Cherry	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Little	Excellent
Elm	Fair	Poor	Few	Heavy	Bad
Fir	Easy	Poor	Many	Heavy	Bad
Hickory	Difficult	Excellent	Moderate	Little	Excellent
Locust	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Little	Good
Maple	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Little	Excellent
Oak	Difficult	Excellent	Few	Little	Good
Pine	Easy	Poor	Many	Heavy	Bad
Spruce	Easy	Poor	Many	Heavy	Bad
Sycamore	Difficult	Poor	Moderate	Heavy	Bad