

Recommendations for Forest Landowners to SLOW THE SPREAD of Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations naturally spread 1-2 miles per year. People moving infested ash material (ash wood, branches, stumps, etc.) to un-infested areas spread EAB much farther distances each year. You can **slow the spread** of EAB and provide greater protection for our forests and trees not yet affected by EAB by carefully planning and managing the movement of infested or potentially infested ash material to and from your property.

TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF EAB, FOLLOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) Know Your Ash

Know how to identify ash trees and where they are on your property. Learn about ash tree identification and signs and symptoms of EAB at vtinvasives.org/eab, and review the description of your forest if you have a forest management plan. If you have ash trees, occasionally check for signs and symptoms of EAB on your property. With your forester, develop a response plan for the arrival of EAB.

2) Know the Infested Area

If your forest is in the [Infested Area](#), to avoid spreading the beetle, ash wood from your land should be handled according to the [Recommendations When Moving Ash from the Infested Area](#). As long as your ash remains uninfested and outside of the Infested Area, then it is reasonably safe to move within the state, as it is unlikely to contribute to the spread of EAB.

3) Consider the Timing of Harvest Activities

If your forest is in the Infested Area and you are going to conduct forest management activities that will result in the harvest and transport of ash materials to areas outside the infested areas, then October 1st to May 31st is the best time to do this work. This is when EAB is not emerging from wood, often called the "non-flight period." By conducting harvests during this time of year, people handling ash wood from your land can apply the optimal [Recommendations When Moving Ash from the Infested Area](#) and reduce the risk of spreading EAB from your property to uninfested areas.

4) Include Language in Your Timber Sale or Forest Management Contract

Forest management that involves the harvest of ash wood within the Infested Area can create a risk of spreading EAB, but with clear communication among loggers, mills and others, this risk can be reduced. A timber sale or forest management contract is a common tool used to protect landowners' and loggers' assets and rights, and defines the responsibilities and conditions of an agreement. To reduce the risk of spreading EAB through movement of ash from your property, consider including language in your contract that requires adherence to the [Recommendations When Moving Ash from the Infested Area](#) and requires that the harvest be conducted during the non-flight period. Discuss this with your consulting forester.

5) Keep Firewood Local

If you are selling or buying firewood, minimize the distance ash firewood is moved. **If you are inside the Infested Area, do not sell ash firewood outside of the Infested Area unless it has been heat treated. If heat treatment or buyers within the Infested Area aren't available, it may be best to leave ash firewood on your property. If you are outside the Infested Area, do not buy ash firewood that came from within the Infested Area unless it has been legitimately heat treated.** Talk to your dealer to ensure that the firewood you are buying has been handled according to the [Slow the Spread Recommendations](#) and doesn't pose a threat to the ash in uninfested areas.