



THE WOODTESTER

A SIMPLE TESTER FOR DETECTING MOISTURE IN FIREWOOD

Everyone knows that wet firewood is difficult to light and does not burn cleanly or efficiently. Even wood which appears dry to the touch may still contain large amounts of water.

The WoodTester is a hand-held moisture tester which uses the well-proved principle of electrical resistance to determine the presence of excessive moisture in firewood.

Measurements are based on the AS/NZS1080 Standard for timber moisture measurement.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Dry wood is a good insulator and its electrical resistance depends on its moisture content. The WoodTester measures the electrical resistance between two pins inserted into the piece of wood. The unit tests whether the resistance is above or below certain critical values and lights one of three LEDs to show how well that wood will burn .

USING THE WOODTESTER

Select a representative sample of the fire wood and gently push the pins into it. The end grain is the easiest place to do this without damaging the pins. Press the button and one of the LEDs will light up. A green LED show that the sample is definitely dry, with a moisture content below 20% and is likely to burn cleanly and efficiently. A red LED shows that the wood is above 24% moisture content and will not burn well. The yellow LED show that the wood is marginally dry with a moisture content 20 and 24%. It should be stored until it drops below 20% but could be burnt if so required. If no LEDs or more than one LED light up then the battery probably needs replacing. Do this by undoing the two screws on the back of the case, carefully opening the case and replacing the 9 volt battery.

PRECAUTIONS

Keep the unit clean and dry and protect from physical damage. Do not use excessive force or twisting on the pins or they will break. The pins are sharp and will easily enter the end grain of most woods sufficiently far enough to take a reading. They are also sharp enough to enter human skin and implant nasty bacteria picked up from the firewood so take care. The WoodTester is calibrated for untreated pine and may respond slightly differently on other types of wood. In general harder woods such as teatree or dense types of gum may appear to be slightly wetter than they actually are. It is also meant to be used at a nominal temperature of 20 deg C so very cold wood can appear dryer than it actually is. However in general if the green light shows then the wood is dry enough to burn under most circumstances.

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