

**COUNTY OF BERGEN
BOROUGH OF PARAMUS
ORDINANCE 2021-18**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART II, GENERAL LEGISLATION, TO INCLUDE
CHAPTER 278, FIREWOOD AND COMMERCIAL FIREWOOD PROCESSORS,
OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF PARAMUS**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Paramus, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Part II, General Legislation, be amended to include Chapter 278, Firewood and Commercial Firewood Processors, of the Code of the Borough of Paramus, is hereby as follows:

Section 1. The current text of Borough Ordinance, Part II, General Legislation, be amended to include, Chapter 278, Firewood and Commercial Firewood Processors, as follows:

§278-1 Purpose.

The Borough of Paramus recognizes that burning wood is an economic and popular means of heating and cooking. At the same time, the storage and processing of firewood can be a nuisance to abutting residents. The Borough deems that the health and welfare of the general public requires certain measures for the storage and processing of firewood in the Borough.

§ 278-2 Definitions.

Cold Deck- A pile of unfinished cut Logs.

Commercial Firewood Processor- An operation used for the purpose of processing felled trees and timber delivered from off-site locations into Firewood with the intent to sell to others. Operations include, but are not limited to cutting, splitting, drying, stacking, bundling, delivery, loading, processing, and storage. This definition shall not include the processing of trees into firewood on the lot or parcel where they are grown.

Firewood- Any wood or wood product that has been processed for use as heating or cooking fuel. Painted or treated wood shall not be considered Firewood.

Fireplace Cord- A stack of wood Sixteen (16) inches wide by eight (8) feet long by four (4) feet high.

Firewood Pile- Firewood that is disorderly and awaiting stacking.

Firewood Stack- Firewood that is piled in a neat, secure, and orderly arrangement.

Logs- Uncut tree trunks or branches that are awaiting processing into Firewood.

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§ 278-3 License and fees.

No person shall engage in the business of Commercial Firewood Processing without first obtaining a license therefor. The license shall require annual renewal and cost \$100.00. The license shall be in affect from January 1 through December 31. The licensing and fee requirements set forth herein shall commence on January 1, 2022.

§ 278-4 Insurance.

No person shall engage in the business of Commercial Firewood Processing without first providing proof of insurance, including statutory workers' compensation insurance, motor vehicle insurance for each motor vehicle used in providing the Firewood processing services, and liability insurance for both personal injury and property damage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 for personal injuries and \$500,000 for property damage.

§ 278-5 Application.

Every applicant for a license under this chapter shall complete an annual application form furnished by the Borough Clerk. The completed form shall be accompanied with the \$100 annual fee payment.

§ 278-6 Display.

Every license issued shall be displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises for the period that said license shall be in force.

§ 278-7 Requirements for Commercial Firewood Processors.

- A. A commercial operator may store Logs awaiting processing in Cold Decks. Cold Decks shall be limited in size of 40 feet in length by 12 feet in height. Cold Decks shall be designated on-site and shall be kept orderly.
- B. Logs that are processed into Firewood shall be stored in Firewood Stacks. Firewood Stacks shall not exceed 15 feet in height. Firewood Stacks shall be secured to ensure stability.
- C. Commercial Firewood Processing yards shall be maintained in an orderly fashion and is further subject to the provisions of §339. Debris or dirt from the Firewood processing activities shall not litter Borough streets or neighboring properties. All brush, debris and refuse from the Firewood processing activities shall be promptly and property disposed of and shall not remain on the premises.
- D. Commercial Firewood Processing yards shall be screened from view of adjacent properties to ensure minimal visual impact. Proper Screening shall include, but not limited to, fencing and landscaping.

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- E. Firewood placed for the purposes of drying, seasoning or storage less than 100 feet from residentially zoned or used properties shall be screened with plantings that provide a year-round visual screen upon maturity. Firewood Stacks for marketing purposes can be stored in the front yard and are not subject to the screening requirements.
- F. No Firewood Stack or Cold Deck shall be stored within 10 feet from a property line.
- G. Noise generated by the Firewood processing shall not exceed the noise standards established by ordinance for the Borough of Paramus.
- H. No vehicles associated with the Firewood processing shall be parked loading on any Borough or County Road .
- I. Outdoor storage of Firewood Stacks, Firewood Piles, or Logs shall be maintained so as not to harbor infestation of rodents or insects.
- J. No Commercial Firewood Processing or sales shall occur on Sunday.

§ 278-8 Requirements for Residential Storage of Firewood.

- A. Firewood may be stored in Firewood Stacks upon a residential property solely for use on the premises and not for re-sale.
- B. No person shall permanently store Firewood Piles in the front yard on a residentially zoned property. Firewood Stacks maybe stored in the front yard so long as the Firewood is placed on a rack or structure that measures no more than two feet in height, three feet in width, and two feet in depth. Firewood stored on a rack or structure in the front porch area shall not exceed ten percent of the porch area and shall not impede ingress or egress to the dwelling or create a hazard.
- C. A Firewood Pile may be temporarily stored in the front yard as it awaits stacking.
- D. A Firewood Stack shall be placed no closer than two feet from property line, shall not exceed six feet in height, and shall be a minimum of four (4) inches off the ground.
- E. Not more than ten percent (10%) of the side yard and rear yard may be used for storage of Firewood at any one time.
- F. Firewood Stacks shall be maintained so as not to harbor infestation of rodents or insects.

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§ 278-9 Violations and penalties.

Any person or business who violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalties provided by § 1-15 of this Code

Section 3. Any ordinance or part thereof inconsistent with this ordinance is repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner provided by law.

Attest:



ANNEMARIE KRUSZNIS, RMG
Borough Clerk

Approved:



RICHARD A. LABARBIERA
Mayor

Introduced: April 13, 2021

Final: May 11, 2021