

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

Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations naturally spread 1-2 miles per year. However, people moving infested ash material (ash wood, branches, stumps, etc.) to uninfested 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, and work with your forester to develop a response plan for the arrival of EAB.

2) Know if Your Trees Are Infested

Observe your ash trees to [determine if they are infested](#). This is particularly important if your land is in the [infested area](#), as the risk of infestation is higher. To avoid spreading the beetle, ash wood from your land should be handled according to the [Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer](#). As long as your ash remains uninfested, 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 trees are infested and you are going to conduct forest management activities that will result in the harvest and transport of ash materials, then October 1 to May 3 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 [Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer](#) 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 involving the harvest of ash wood can create a risk of spreading EAB, but this risk can be reduced with clear communication among loggers, mills, and others. 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 the movement of ash from your property, consider including language in your contract that requires adherence to the [Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer](#) 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, minimize the distance ash firewood is moved. **If your ash is infested, do not sell ash firewood to a buyer more than 5 miles away unless it has been seasoned for 24 months, will be transported and burned between September 30 and June 1, or will be heat treated. If heat treatment or buyers within 5 miles aren't available, it may be best to leave ash firewood on your property. If you are buying firewood and you have ash that are not infested,** talk to your firewood dealer to ensure that the firewood you are buying has been handled according to the [Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer](#) and doesn't pose a threat to your uninfested ash trees.