

How to get free firewood

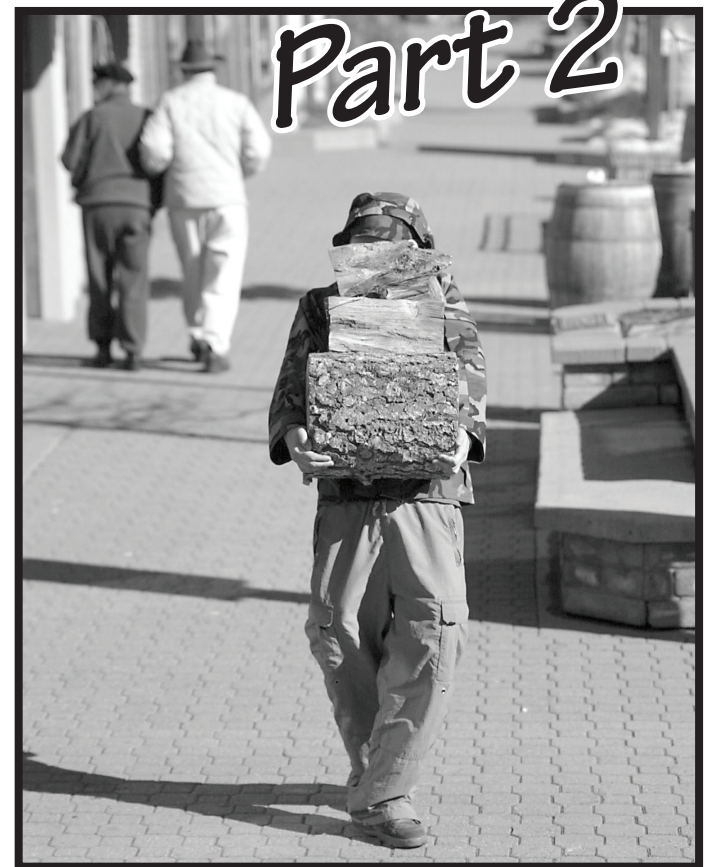
By Daniel Savickas

Last winter the LowDown provided its readers with invaluable information on how to heat their homes without having to pay for expensive cords of wood or electric bills. For those of you not around last winter, here's a quick recap.

We all know it takes a lot of wood to get our homes to that desired tropical weather feel; but lets face it, firewood isn't cheap. You could just crank up the thermostat and bask in the heat; but again, we all know this isn't a cheap option.

So at this point you're probably asking yourself exactly how you're going to keep your house warm without spending a lot of money; the answer is simple, steal firewood from your neighbor.

Now if you pull off the heist without getting caught, you're in the clear. But if you plan to heat your house for the entire winter you're going to have to pull off this caper more than once. So how do you explain to your neighbor why your arms are filled with their expensive firewood or why their woodpile is gone? Leave this to us; we've outlined a few of our favorite techniques just in case you get caught in the act.



1. The Scooby Doo Technique

We've all seen an episode or two of Scooby Doo in our day, so this one should be rather easy to pull off. In each episode of Scooby Doo everyone's favorite talking dog uncovered the mystery behind an abandoned, yet haunted, movie theatre, amusement park or football stadium. Every episode would end with Scooby and the gang discovering the ghosts was nothing more than an image of a ghost projected onto a screen.

Go to your neighbor's house and take a picture of their woodpile. Once you've gotten the film back from the local photo lab, it's time to go ahead and steal your neighbor's firewood.

With the wood is securely in your home, return to the scene of the crime with a large projection screen. Set the screen up against your neighbor's house in the area where the woodpile once sat. Once the screen is in place, return to your house and turn on your projector; which contains a picture of your neighbor's woodpile and point it directly towards the screen. As long as you have your projector on, your neighbor's will think their woodpile is safely resting against their

home.

Helpful hints

- Make sure you live next to someone who is rich enough to keep their thermostat set in the high 80's. These people will never use their firewood, they simply have it stacked outside their house to give it that "rustic mountain home" feel.

2. The David Blaine Technique

If you've ever seen David Blaine perform, you know he is a master of illusions. Blaine can make nearly anything appear or disappear right in front of his audience. Can you think of any better audience for Blaine to perform in front of than your neighbors? I didn't think so.

Stroll on over to your neighbor's woodpile with your new buddy David Blaine. Have Blaine stand in the spot where your neighbor's woodpile used to sit while you shuttle the wood over to your house.

Not only is Blaine a master of illusions, but he also is able to overcome extreme temperatures, starvation and sleep deprivation. One time he surrounded himself in ice blocks and stayed awake for some ridiculous amount

of time without eating or drinking anything. These are handy characteristics to have considering he's going to have to stand watch for the entire winter.

Everytime your neighbor comes out to get a piece of wood, Blaine simply makes one appear and hands it over.

Helpful hints

- First of all you're going to have to hire Blaine. I'm sure he's got some Internet site, just type in David Blaine and Google him.
- Once you've hired him simply set him out by your neighbor's woodpile. Now I know he can stay awake in the cold without eating or sleeping, but he claims this takes a deep trance-like-meditation state. You can't have him slacking off on the job, you need him in top-form. Don't be afraid to kick him down some left over Mac and cheese or throw him a blanket to keep him warm. The more comfortable he is, the more comfortable you are going to be sitting by your roaring fireplace.

3. The Amnesia Technique

Now your neighbor would never stop you from stealing their firewood if

they thought it was bad for your health.

For this technique you'll need two people. Send your roommate over to your neighbor's house and have them steal all of their firewood. If your neighbor comes out while your roommate is stealing the wood, or they come over to your house to accuse him of being a thief, it's time for you to step into action.

When your neighbor asks why your roommate is stealing their firewood, jump in and tell your neighbor your roommate has an extreme case of amnesia. Tell them the doctor says it's important for your roommate's recovery that everyone plays along with their distorted "reality."

Say to them, "I'm really sorry, but he thinks that's his wood. We have to let him take the wood into our house and start a fire otherwise he'll get really confused and it could compromise his recovery."

Helpful hints

- Watch and take notes on

Adam Sandler's movie 50 First Dates.

- Make your neighbor feel like a hero for playing along. Tell them they're your savior or a lifesaver for not confusing your roommate.
- Have a story ready for how your roommate got amnesia. Make up some really complex trick and tell them, "He/She was trying an inverted-corked out-900-shifty McPlung to back-side lip slide to 450 out and they overshoot the landing." If you confuse the hell out of them they're not going to try and understand. They'll except what your saying just so they sound hip. Tell them the story before they ask and fill it with tons of made up statistics and facts about people who've suffered from the same affliction.

Do not steal your neighbors firewood, this story is for entertainment only!