



Key fuel types available in New Zealand

The Wood Fuel Supplier Accreditation Scheme accredits suppliers of the wood fuel types as set out in the Bioenergy Association [Solid Biofuel Classification Guidelines](#) and listed below:

Wood chips	Chipped woody biomass in the form of pieces, with a defined particle size produced by mechanical treatment with sharp tools such as knives.	
Hog fuel	Fuel wood in pieces of varying size and shape produced by crushing with blunt tools such as rollers, hammers or flails.	
Wood pellets	Wood that has been pulverised and pelletised under heat and high pressure to produce a cylindrical wood derived fuel of consistent size. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat A - premium pellets • Cat B - large premium pellets • Cat C - industrial grade pellets 	
Urban wood fuels	Wood residues derived from the urban activities including packaging materials, off-cuts from manufacturing, construction and demolition wood residues, yard trimmings, urban tree residues and land clearing.	
Compressed firelogs and briquettes	A briquette or firelog is a block of compressed flammable matter used as fuel to start and maintain a fire. Common types include charcoal briquettes and biomass briquette.	
Torrefied wood	Torrefied wood is completely desiccated biomass, with devolatilised hemicellulose, which has not yet reached the point of "char". These fuel may be compressed, fine or chunky.	

Herbaceous wood fuels	These are woody derived fuels sourced from Jerusalem artichoke, Miscanthus, Switchgrass, other grasses and straw and may be in the form of chip, hogged or pelletised fuels. Includes agricultural crop residues corn stover, straw, etc.	
Firewood	Larger piece size of wood used for kindling or for sustaining combustion in domestic solid wood fire appliances.	

While solid biofuels is the technical term covering all biofuel from wood or herbaceous material it is generally just referred to as wood fuel as in New Zealand this is by far the most dominant type of solid biofuel.

Solid biofuels derived from municipal landfill or solid biowaste collection has not been included in this section as it is covered in the biowaste section of this website.

Details on each fuel type and how they are defined in terms of size, moisture and contaminants are set out in Bioenergy Association [Technical Guide 01](#) "Solid Biofuel Classification Guidelines".

The association has developed and published Guidelines in order to assist buyers and sellers of solid wood fuels to have clear definitions and standard terminology for the classification of all types of solid biofuel in New Zealand, (because they are voluntary they are referred to as Guidelines).

The Guidelines provide a methodology for how buyers and sellers of wood fuel can describe the fuel being bought and sold. Without a common nomenclature uncertainty over the characteristics of the product lead to disputes.

The Guidelines are available free to members or can be purchased at a cost of \$80 (excl. GST) by non members.

Click [here](#) if you would like to purchase a copy of the Guidelines.

A summarised copy of revised version is available [here](#).