

English – wood pellets

Wood pellets are a type of wood fuel, generally made from compacted sawdust or other wastes from sawmilling and other wood products manufacture,^[1] but also sometimes from sources such as whole-tree removal or tree tops and branches leftover after logging and which otherwise help replenish soil nutrients.^[citation needed] Pellets are manufactured in several types and grades as fuels for electric power plants, homes, and other applications in between.^[2] Pellets are extremely dense and can be produced with a low moisture content (below 10%) that allows them to be burned with a very high combustion efficiency.^[3]

Further, their regular geometry and small size allow automatic feeding with very fine calibration. They can be fed to a burner by auger feeding or by pneumatic conveying. Their high density also permits compact storage and rational transport over long distance. They can be conveniently blown from a tanker to a storage bunker or silo on a customer's premises.^[4]

A broad range of pellet stoves, central heating furnaces, and other heating appliances have been developed and marketed since 1999.^[citation needed] With the surge in the price of fossil fuels since 2005, the demand for pellet heating has increased in Europe and North America, and a sizable industry is emerging. According to the International Energy Agency Task 40, wood pellet production has more than doubled between 2006 and 2010 to over 14 million tons.^[5] In a 2012 report, the Biomass Energy Resource Center says that it expects wood pellet production in North America to double again in the next five years.^[6]