
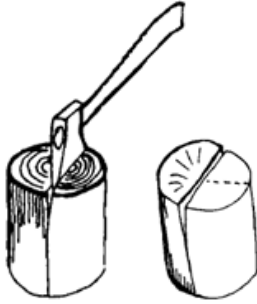

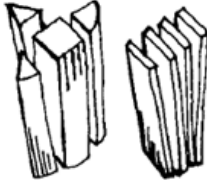


Axe and Saw Permit: Tool Comparison



Objective:

The objective of this workshop guide is for the Scout Leader and/or Scout youth to be able to choose the most appropriate tool for cutting wood for campfire use.

<p>Cutting Tree limbs or a tree trunk</p> <p>Tools: A Felling Axe is the best tool to chop the tree down A saw is the best tool to cut limbs from the tree A hatchet will work, but it will take much longer Accuracy of cuts is not an issue</p>		<p>Most appropriate tool: Saw</p> <p>Safest tool: Saw</p>
<p>Cutting large chunks of wood</p> <p>Tools: A Felling Axe is the best tool to split large chunks of wood into half sizes A hatchet will work, but it will take much longer. A hatchet may require a rock to help pound the hatchet into the wood to help split it. Accuracy of cuts is not an issue A saw cannot chop wood</p>		<p>Most appropriate tool: Felling Axe</p> <p>Safest tool: Hatchet</p>
<p>Cutting medium chunks of wood</p> <p>Tools: A Felling Axe or hatchet is ideal for splitting large chunks of wood into quarter sizes A hatchet will work, but it will take much longer Accuracy of cuts is not an issue A saw cannot chop wood</p>		<p>Most appropriate tool: Felling Axe</p> <p>Safest tool: Hatchet</p>
<p>Cutting kindling</p> <p>Tools: A hatchet is best suited for small accurate cuts as a Felling axe is too large for this task A felling Axe is too large for this task Accuracy of cuts is not an issue A saw cannot chop wood</p>		<p>Most appropriate tool: Hatchet</p> <p>Safest tool: Hatchet</p>



Felling Axe

Pros

- Capable of splitting lengthy and large diameter wood into chunks of into camp fire sized wood
- Faster than a hatchet for cutting through large pieces of wood

Cons

- Axe head can work loose requiring special maintenance
- Heavy (head can weight up to 6lbs) makes it wearisome to carry long distances
- Large size makes it harder to transport on your backpack
- Blade must be kept sharp to maintain its effectiveness
- Requires skill and caution to use effectively and efficiently
- May require sharpening equipment to be taken if the axe is to be used often
- Takes longer to cut through tree limbs or large pieces of wood than a saw

Hatchet

Pros

- Capable of splitting firewood sized trunks of wood into kindling faster than a saw
- Safer than a Felling Axe when splitting firewood sized trunks of wood
- Smaller and lighter than a Felling Axe
- Can be carried quite easily
- Trimming small branches / twigs on tree limbs much easier than an axe or saw
- You can still create kindling from larger chunks of wood

Cons

- Hatchet head can work loose requiring special maintenance
- Heavier than a saw
- Can cut through large pieces of wood, but takes longer than a saw
- Blade must be kept sharp to maintain its effectiveness
- Requires skill and caution to use effectively and efficiently
- May require sharpening equipment to be taken if the axe is to be used often
- Takes longer to cut through tree limbs or large pieces of wood than a saw

Saw

Pros

- Faster at cutting through trees and tree limbs than a felling axe
- Lighter, smaller - or can be packed away smaller than a felling axe
- Blade rarely needs sharpening
- Safer to use than an axe or hatchet

Cons

- Longer blade than axe or hatchet which requires a larger safety covering
- Cannot chop wood with a saw
- Cannot trip small branches or twigs as easily as a hatchet
- Blades may loose teeth or break
- Spare blade should be carried

Conclusion

- An axe is ideal for heavy work, but requires significant space and is heavy. An hatchet can do all that an axe can but will take a little longer.
- Saws can cut much faster than an axe or hatchet. A saw cannot chop wood.

RECOMMENDATION: *Take a hatchet and a good saw on your trip. Sharpen the Hatchet before you to and carry spare blades for the saw.*