

POLYPHAGEOUS SHOT HOLE BORER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Polyphageous Shot Hole Borer?

The Polyphageous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) is a new invasive insect, with devastating effects on vegetation in South Africa and currently also in the Western Cape. The beetle is capable of causing serious damage to trees and currently no chemical products are registered for use against the beetle.

2. Why is the Shot Hole borer of concern to me and my family?

The beetle has sadly been found at CapeNature reserves and neighboring communities to our reserves. In order to protect the biodiversity integrity of these areas, CapeNature has taken the proactive stance in terms of preventative methods, the main method being the prohibiting of all firewood and the use thereof on our reserves. We need your help to protect our trees against this devastating threat by NOT bringing in wood into our reserves.

3. Can I still enjoy my favourite activities at reserves such as a picnic braai (BBQ)?

All designated recreational activities for visitor enjoyment are still open and welcome. We however need your help in minimising the visitor risk and protecting our natural resources for future years.

4. What are the alternatives?

- 1) Some CapeNature reserves will be selling braaiwood, harvested directly from the reserve, whilst others are selling charcoal and / or eco-logs, as an alternative. Please check in with the reserve you are planning to visit to find out if they do sell and if they have stock.
- 2) You can bring your own charcoal or eco logs. Eco logs are available at selected retail outlets and cost about R60 for a 5kg bag. Always store it in a dry place.

Eco logs would be considered a combination of hardwood and softwood. The composition of an eco log is usually the sawdust by-product from the manufacturing process. The sawdust is compressed at high pressures to create a compact log.

Benefits of eco logs:

- 100% natural
- Eco friendly
- Made from compressed grape seeds
- Clean & convenient to use
- Not harmful to the environment
- No chemicals or binding agents used to manufacture the product
- 30-45 minutes of high heat flames
- 2-3 hours of high heat coals
- Can be used for braai (indoor & outdoor), heating, combustion ovens, woodfired pizza ovens, wood fired jacuzzi's
- Alternative to wood & charcoal
- Sustainable – can be bought all year round
- Very little smoke produced due to the absence of sap

- Leaves less than 4% ash, which makes clean up a breeze.

5. What happens if I show up at a reserve with my own firewood?

Unfortunately, any wood brought onto reserves will be confiscated and responsibly disposed of. You would have to buy wood (if available), charcoal or eco logs – available at selected reserves.

6. Why is CapeNature taking such drastic measures?

Containing the beetle is the best method to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within the Western Cape and South Africa. By not bringing wood into our reserves, you are helping us in doing so.

We wish to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we navigate this situation together. We trust that your stay will be just as enjoyable.
