

HOW TO MAKE A FUZZ STICK

A good sharp knife and skill in handling it will make a camper's life easier – and more fun. Making shavings and fuzz sticks for starting fires is a test of both skill and knife care. Shavings may be made from any stick picked up at the cook-out site to make the simplest, most effective tinder. When shavings are left on the stick the product is called a fuzz stick.

Small fuzz sticks are made from a short stick, with five to ten shavings made on one side; the small fuzz sticks are piled one on top of another to make the base of a fire. A craftsman's fuzz stick will be larger, with shavings on the stick all around and a pointed end to stand the fuzz stick in the ground. With kindling piled around the fuzz stick, fire building is simple. Fuzz sticks are especially good to make when wood is damp or wet, as the inside of the stick is always drier than the outside.

You will need: Piece of soft wood (pine kindling, etc.) about 10 inches long, one inch diameter and without knots.

1. Hold top of stick with one hand and brace it against a bench, stump, or whittling board.
2. Cut long, slim shavings down the length of the stick (avoid short, thick ones). Cut into wood at bottom, to keep from cutting shavings off, and draw knife out at bottom of stroke.
3. Turn stick as work progresses, making shavings evenly on all sides.
4. Point end of top of stick so it will stand in the ground.