

Best Practices for use of Wood Heaters

Important factors to consider when using your wood heater in terms of heating efficiency, reduction of smoke emissions and air pollution.

It is important to realise that all woodheaters **will smoke** for a period of time when first lit.

Usually for 15 to 20 minutes. It is after this period that you can manage your woodheater to work in an efficient manner to reduce smoke emissions.

- ~ **Prior** to the commencement of winter and the use of your woodheater it is recommended to have the flue properly cleaned. Recommend clean once per year.
- ~ **Get** your fire started with kindling/paper and firelighters – then slowly build up the intensity of the fire, adding smaller then larger pieces of wood. It is important that air can circulate freely. The air vents of your heater should be left fully open.
- ~ **After** your fire has established, usually about 30-40 minutes, you can close your air vents marginally to give you a comfortable fire burning at a moderate rate.
- ~ **Use** dry, seasoned, untreated wood. The more water in or greener the wood the more smoke will be produced and less efficient heat will be produced. You will get a smouldering/smoking or hissing fire.
- ~ **Stack** and keep wood in a dry well ventilated area.
- ~ **Flues & Chimneys** should be at least one metre taller than any other structure within 15 metres.
- ~ **In considering your neighbours** regarding smoke emissions from your woodheater, consider the height of your flue and the different types of cowls that are available for different types of areas.
- ~ **Excessive smoke** means incomplete/inefficient burning of wood, which is ultimately costing you money.
Small frequent additions of wood are preferred.
- ~ These are just a few preventative measures that can be used to reduce the smoke levels from your woodheater.
It is important to take into account your neighbours and the environment when operating your woodheater.
If your fire smokes for more than 20 minutes after it is lit, there is a problem with the fuel, operating method or both.
Ultimately, penalties can be imposed under the nuisance provisions of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act for house owners causing smoke problems for their neighbours.

