



Wood Stove Safety

Heating with wood has long been common in rural areas where wood is plentiful and propane is expensive, but it can also have a downside, because old appliances and poor burn practices can pollute the air you breath.

SAFETY TIPS FOR BUYING NEW WOOD STOVES

1. If your wood burning appliances were manufactured before 1990 they should be replaced. You should only use EPA-Certified or EPA-Qualified appliances.
2. Have wood-burning appliances professionally installed and maintained.

GOOD BURNING PRACTICES

- Burn only dry wood that has been seasoned outdoors for at least 6 months. Well-seasoned wood is darker, has cracks and sounds hollow.
- Keep wood dry by stacking it off the ground (i.e. on pallets) and keeping it covered.
- Start fires using kindling, newspaper, or natural or organic fire starters. Keep stove doors closed unless loading or stoking a live fire.
- If using manufactured logs, be aware that only those made from 100% compressed sawdust should be used in wood stoves and fireplace inserts.
- Burn hot fires; smoldering fires are unsafe.
- Remove ashes regularly, place them in a metal container with cover, and store them outdoors on a cement or brick surface, never on a wood deck or near wood.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.



NEVER BURN THE FOLLOWING

- Cardboard and household garbage; plastics, foam and magazines. Boxes and packaging produce harmful chemicals when burned and may also damage wood-burning appliances.
- Coated, painted, or pressure-treated wood because it releases toxic chemicals when burned.
- Ocean driftwood, plywood, particle board, or any wood with glue on or in it; all release toxic chemicals when burned.
- Wet, rotted, diseased, or moldy wood.



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Don't learn safety by accident