

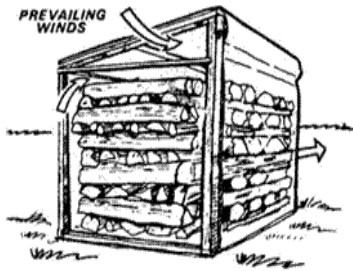
# Efficient Wood Heater Operation

## Congratulations on your new wood heater.

By changing the way you burn wood you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health. Here are some simple tips to burn wisely, reduce heating costs, reduce air pollution and maintain community health.

### Storage –

- All firewood should be split, securely covered and aged for at least six months for soft woods and twelve months for hard woods.
- Wood should be stacked neatly off the ground with the top covered to prevent rain getting in.
- Wet wood cools your fire, wastes fuel and creates excessive wood smoke.



### Choosing the right wood –

- Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke produced. Properly seasoned wood is darker, has cracks in the end grain, and sounds hollow when smacked against another piece of wood.
- Never burn trash or treated wood which can emit toxic air pollutants.
- Hardwood timbers should be used to fuel wood heaters and are recommended for a continuous burn. Soft woods can be useful for starting fires as they burn easily and are quick to ignite.

### Starting it right –

- Place crumpled newspaper or a fire lighter on a fire bed of some ash.
- Build a small pile of kindling over this, then another piece of crumpled paper or a small fire lighter on top. By placing a quick burning material on top, you are heating up the flue cavity and creating a draw of air to start circulating and feeding your fire.
- Gradually add larger pieces of wood when a bed of fire has been established.
- Maintain good air flow between kindling and added small wood pieces to allow for ignition points and effective start up.

- A single log will smother the fire as it has limited ignition point for heating, start with smaller pieces.
- Leave the air intake on your wood heater fully open for at least 20 minutes on start-up and when re-fuelling.
- Every time you add fuel - open the air intake first and then add the wood.
- After 10–20 minutes when all the wood is burning properly, you can reduce the air intake for a comfortable bright fire

Air flow is essential for providing high temperatures, the production of ignition points, the combustion of wood gases, the reduction of wood smoke into your local environment, and in maintaining heating efficiency.

### Maintenance –

- Have a certified professional inspect your chimney once a year. A clean chimney provides good draft for your wood-burning appliance and reduces the risk of a chimney fire.
- Remove excess ash as it can clog the air intake vents.

For further information please contact  
Council's Environmental Health Team  
**between 9.00am and 11.00am Monday to  
Friday on 4429 3610.**

