

Wood Burning Stove Maintenance and Safety

Proper Installation is Critical

Your wood stove must be installed by a professional to ensure it is done correctly and to ensure a safe installation.

Good Maintenance is the Key

For your wood stove to operate safely and efficiently, the entire solid fuel heating system must be properly maintained. The stove, chimney connectors and joints, chimney flue and chimney must be clean and in good working order. The stovepipe and chimney should be inspected frequently during the heating season for creosote buildup. If you use an air-tight stove, check the stovepipe at least once a month. Your chimney cleaning schedule will depend on how frequently your stove is used and how it is operated. If the chimney has excessive build up, it should likely be inspected and cleaned by a professional.



Clearance

Maintain proper clearance from combustibles. The TWO FEET RULE is a good standard to keep all items at least two feet away from the wood burning stove. Never underestimate the power of stray sparks or the radiating heat that could reach items such as drapes or furniture.



Firewood and Usage

Firewood should be split and stacked under cover in early spring to be ready for burning in the fall. Hardwoods (maple) are denser than softwoods (pine) and will produce a longer-lasting fire. Burning dry, well-seasoned wood will not only produce more heat, but will prevent creosote buildup. Do not burn newspaper, wrapping paper, household waste or any other similar material in your wood stove. Do not burn chemical logs in your wood stove. In addition, never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter or similar liquid to start a fire.

Detection Devices

A **stovepipe thermometer** is recommended to make sure that a wood stove is operating at the right temperature. **Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors** are the best indicators to warn you that a fire has started or that the levels of oxygen are not correct. Keeping a **fire extinguisher** nearby will also help in preventing the fire from spreading and causing more damage.

