



FIREWOOD ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA INC



Australian Government

Our Land. **Our Plan. Our Future**

Buying and Maintaining a Wood Heater

When purchasing a wood heater make sure that it complies with the current Australian Standard, which sets a maximum emission limit of 4g of particle pollution for each kg of wood burnt. Check the label on the heater and consider choosing a model with the lowest emission limit and the highest efficiency rating. Combustion type woodheaters are much more efficient than open fireplaces.

Ask the retailer to help you choose the right size heater for your needs. Too small a heater can result in over-firing, which shortens the life of the heater. Too large a heater will have to be turned down most of the time. A big heater burning slowly makes more smoke than a smaller heater burning more quickly. Minimising wood smoke pollution improves air quality and saves you money by reducing running costs.

Heater Operation

Whether your heater is new or old, an open fireplace or a combustion heater, you can get more efficient burning when you:-

- Make sure your wood is dry – wet wood burns poorly and emits more smoke
- Light a fire using sufficient kindling to establish a hot fire quickly and open air vents fully
- Use smaller logs to get the fire established
- Run combustion heaters on a high burn rate for the first 20–25 minutes of operation
- Don't turn your fire down (i.e. limit air supply) until it is well established with red coals
- Allow air to circulate between the logs by not overfilling the heater
- Use larger logs for slower burning once the fire is established

- Don't block the incoming air supply with logs
- Rekindle the fire quickly with a bit of newspaper and small wood. If the fuel load has burnt down to only a few glowing coals,

Heater Maintenance

A well-operated heater should produce very little smoke. It will keep your home warm and your neighbours happy.

Keep your heater and flue in good working order.

If your heater or fireplace is getting harder to light, or is producing too much smoke, it could indicate a build up of creosote (a complex chemical compound including tar and soot) in the flue.

Clean your flue annually or, if necessary, have it professionally cleaned. Service your heater during spring or early summer. This minimizes the corrosive effects of creosote residues and condensation during the off-season. If your wood heater is still producing too much smoke, arrange an inspection by a professional. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

Energy Efficient Houses

A well insulated house can significantly reduce heating costs. Installing high-standard ceiling and wall insulation, double-glazed windows and floor insulation can effectively reduce energy consumption by 20-40%.

www.firewood.asn.au.

Look for the distinctive FAA Certification Mark which is displayed by FAA members or call

1300 131 481

for your nearest member.
or email; info@firewood.asn.au

