

WOODFIRES



Helpful Tips

Starting the Fire

- Always start with small pieces of wood or kindling
- Add larger pieces when fire becomes well established
- Stack wood loosely to allow circulation of air and avoid smouldering
- Never overload your fire in the morning with air intake set to low
- Burn only, dry seasoned hardwood

Maintaining the Fire

- Keep the flame lively and bright
- Rely on your homes insulation to hold in enough heat for the night
- Keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame
- Don't let your heater smoulder overnight
- To reduce the build up of soot and creosote, burn your fire fast for 1-2 hours every day the fire is lit
- Open air intake for 5 minutes when adding wood

Checking/Maintaining your Chimney

- Check your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning, if your chimney is smoking increase the air supply to your fire
- If the fire smokes for longer than 10 minutes when starting or more than a minute when adding wood there is a problem with the wood, the operating method or both

Cleaning your Chimney

- Check the flue, chimney and baffle regularly for a build-up of soot or creosote (a tar-like oily deposit)
- A build-up indicates the fire is not burning correctly and can cause chimney fires
- Clean the chimney, flue and baffle at the end of every winter

For more information please phone Orange City Council on (02) 63 938000 or visit our website at www.orange.nsw.gov.au

Or visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au

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Facts



Wood Smoke Pollution

- Wood smoke contains a number of noxious gases including carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and a range of organic compounds some of which are carcinogenic, and fine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs

Contribution of Wood Smoke to Air Particle Pollution

- In winter there is more particle pollution caused by wood heaters than any other single source of air pollution, especially in colder climates
- The highest concentration of fine particles occur after midnight, caused by wood heaters turned down and left to smoulder
- Leaving your heater on the minimum air setting with a full firebox generates very little heat and lots of smoke causing pollution inside and outside your home
- Unless your heater is specifically designed for continuous operation let it go out overnight, spend money on insulation rather than fuel.



Community Concern

- Air quality
- Influence on weather
- Dispersion of pollutants
- People with respiratory problems (asthma, emphysema), the elderly & very young
- Evidence suggests that smoke pollution can cause cardiac problems

IF YOU CAN SEE OR SMELL SMOKE FROM YOUR WOOD HEATHER THEN YOU ARE CAUSING A PROBLEM FOR YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS

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