

Checklist for efficient and safe wood burning

- Only burn seasoned firewood.
- Light the stove using dry kindling to heat up the firebox fast. The air vents should be fully open when first lighting the stove.
- When the fire is going well add some bigger logs. When these are burning well you can shut down the air a little. If your stove has primary and secondary air controls then (in general) shut down the primary and control the stove using the secondary air.
- Do not slow / slumber burn. Do not "turn the stove down for the night". There should be good visible flames in the firebox.
- Wait till the logs have burnt down to a bed of glowing embers before adding more logs. Turn the air up a little to help the new logs catch fire, then back down again once they are going.
- When the stove is burning properly (other than when it is first lit, or when you have added more logs) there should be no visible smoke coming out of the chimney. If there is smoke then you are probably doing something wrong.
- Only add a few logs at a time – do not totally fill the firebox up.
- Sweep your chimney at least once a year before the burning season. When wood burning sweep at least every 3 months. The frequency of sweeping depends on how much you burn and what you burn. An indication as to how often you should sweep the chimney is given by the amount of deposits that are produced at each sweeping. Consult a registered chimney sweep if in doubt.

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