









Chimney checker

Check your chimney regularly for smoke whenever your wood heater is operating

 	<p>If your wood heater is operating correctly your chimney will emit little or no smoke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Air intake open to allow sufficient oxygen✓ Firebox stacked correctly✓ Dry firewood	
	<p>Your chimney should smoke for no more than five to 10 minutes after lighting or refuelling.</p>	
 	<p>If your chimney is smoky there is something wrong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Air intake closed down✗ Not enough kindling✗ Green firewood✗ Firebox too full✗ Chemically treated or painted wood	



For more information

on wood heaters and air pollution,
visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website:

www.dwer.wa.gov.au/burnwise

or email

burnwise@dwer.wa.gov.au

Phone: 6364 7000

More information on domestic wood smoke is also available
from your local government's environmental health section.

Your local contact is:



BurnWise

Store right

Burn bright

Breathe all right



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

A correctly operated wood heater produces more heat and less smoke than a wood heater that is not operated correctly.

Particles from wood smoke contribute significantly to winter haze events and are bad for your health.

What is haze?

Haze appears as a brown smudge in the sky. It is made of up of tiny airborne particles of smoke, dust, vehicle emissions and sea salt. Haze is most evident during winter on calm clear mornings.

Haze alerts

When haze events are predicted, alerts are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and broadcast through news outlets. Avoid using your wood heater during a haze alert. If you don't have an alternative, make sure you light a clean and efficient fire to minimise smoke emissions.

How does wood smoke impact health?

Particles from wood smoke are breathed into our lungs impacting health.

They are especially dangerous for people with existing respiratory problems, for the very young and the elderly. Even if you are healthy, wood smoke can cause you to feel lethargic and generally unwell. It may also lead to long-term impacts.

Smoke is the result of incomplete combustion. It is wasted fuel that was not burnt properly in your wood heater. This means heat lost from your house.



Five simple steps to reduce wood smoke

- 1) Keep your woodpile loosely stacked and under cover.
- 2) Start your fire with dry kindling and the air intake fully open.
- 3) Burn dry, seasoned firewood—never burn green, wet or chemically treated firewood.
- 4) Keep your wood heater burning brightly.
- 5) Regularly check your chimney for smoke. If you are burning a bright fire, your chimney should only produce a heat haze.



Do not shut the air intake down on your wood heater at any time, including overnight. This causes the fire to smoulder and large amounts of smoke to be emitted from your chimney.

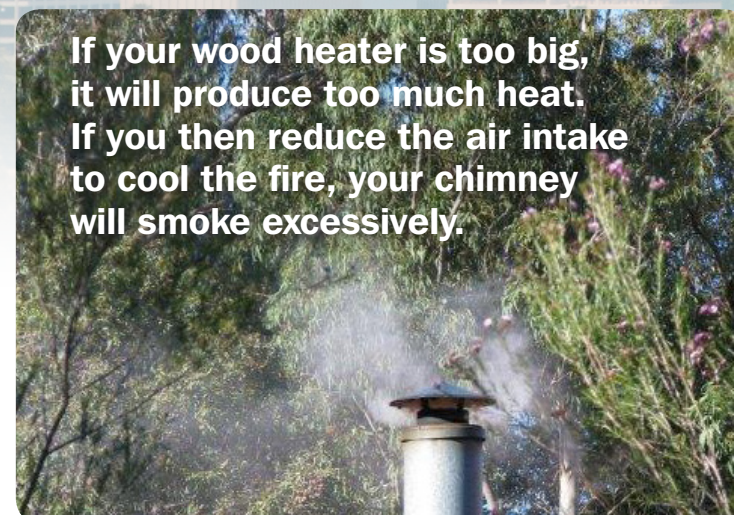
If you have a wood heater

You can reduce the amount of smoke emitted from your chimney by burning wood cleanly and efficiently.

If you are thinking about buying a wood heater

Only buy a wood heater that complies with the Australian and New Zealand Standards 4012:2014 and 4013:2014.

Choose a heater that is the right size for your home.



If your wood heater is too big, it will produce too much heat. If you then reduce the air intake to cool the fire, your chimney will smoke excessively.



Store right

Dry, seasoned firewood produces less smoke and more heat for your dollar.

- **Check the wood is dry before you buy.** If you bang two pieces of dry wood together they make a hollow, cracking sound. Green wood makes a dull thud when you hit it together.
- **Stockpile in summer.** You'll have a supply of dry, well-seasoned firewood for the winter.
- **Split logs before you store them.** Small logs dry faster than big logs.
- **Cover your woodpile and pack it loosely.** Your wood will dry out faster and stay dry.

Wet or green firewood produces more smoke and less heat than dry seasoned firewood.

It's illegal for firewood retailers in the Perth Metropolitan Region to sell firewood with an internal moisture content of 20 per cent. Ask the retailer to show you how dry their wood is using their moisture meter.

If you collect your own wood, make sure you collect dry wood only or plan ahead to allow enough time for it to dry before you use it.



Burn bright

A hot fire has bright swirling flames, red glowing embers and produces little or no smoke.

- Make sure the air intake is fully open.
- Add more newspaper on top just before you light the fire.
- Gradually add larger pieces of wood when the fire is flaming and hot.
- Fully open the air intake when refuelling, and leave it open for 10 minutes.
- Don't overload the fire. Always leave enough space for air to circulate.
- Don't shut down the air intake during operation or overnight. Let the fire burn out and relight in the morning.
- Check your chimney for smoke during operation.

A bright fire gives more heat for the same amount of wood than a dull smoky fire.

Practise getting a clean burn from your wood heater. Most wood heaters can be operated to produce little smoke except for a short time after lighting or refuelling.

Use the chimney checker to check your chimney five to 10 minutes after lighting or refuelling. If your wood heater is working properly, your chimney will be emitting virtually no smoke.



Breathe all right

Wood smoke is toxic. There is no safe level of exposure. By following the simple steps in this brochure your wood heater will produce far less smoke. This will have health benefits for yourself, your family and your community.

If you can see or smell smoke outside, wood smoke is a health risk for you, your family and your neighbours. If you can see or smell smoke inside your house, your wood heater needs urgent maintenance or replacement. Your health is at immediate risk.



Never burn rubbish or painted or chemically treated wood. It produces poisonous gases.

