

How to Use a Wood Burning Stove

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In this tutorial, we look at how to use a wood-burning stove properly so you can get maximum heat whenever the weather gets cold. Learn how to use a wood stove efficiently, safely and effectively.



You need to know how to use a wood-burning stove properly, otherwise, you won't get the most benefit from your purchase, not to mention potentially putting yourself and your family in danger.

Choosing A Fuel

Make sure you've chosen the correct fuel. Dry, seasoned wood is the best option since fresh wood will contain excess water and so will produce too much smoke. You can choose between softwoods and hardwoods. If you're lighting a fire on a cool evening, softwoods are best because they're less dense.

On the other hand, if it's a very cold winter, hardwoods are best because the burn they produce is longer and hotter.

Open The Valves

Your fire will need oxygen to burn so open all of the controls so air can get into your firebox. The valves must all be opened fully when you're lighting your fire.

Adding Kindling

You will get the fire started by adding kindling to boost the temperature in the firebox so the flames start to burn. You can do this by crumpling up 5–6 pieces of dry paper and placing them into the middle of the firebox. Put 15 small pieces of dry wood onto the paper.

Lighting The Flames

Next, use a match or lighter to set fire to the paper under your kindling in several places beginning at the rear of the firebox and moving forwards. Keep the stove's door open for 5 minutes as this will help the fire to get going.

Once your kindling is burning, wait for the flames to die down before adding smaller logs onto the fire. Add 3, one at a time so the flames won't be smothered. Stack the logs loosely to allow air to flow around them and close the door but keep it unlatched for 15 minutes. This will ensure the fire can establish itself properly.

Keeping Your Fire Burning

Make sure you keep the stove's door closed since each time it's opened, heat will escape and the fire will be less efficient and cooler. Smoke will also get into the room when the door is open and this is hazardous to your health.

Only open the door when you add more wood to the fire. When you do this, open it slowly so fresh air won't rush in and create smoke.

Add large logs to the fire once the small logs' flames have begun to subside. Never add more than 5 logs at once to the fire since it will smother it partially, leaving unburned fuel that leads to creosote and smoke buildup.

After 20 minutes, partially close the stove's air intakes. This will ensure the fire has sufficient air to burn well but it won't blaze and burn too rapidly.

Although you may now know how to use a wood burner, the key to getting the most out of your stove is to use it as efficiently as possible. This is important

since not only will the efficient operation of your stove help keep your home warm but it'll also improve the cleanliness of the air.

Efficient wood combustion involves converting all the wood's combustible material into heat, water vapor and carbon dioxide leaving only ash behind. When all of the combustible materials aren't turned into heat, emissions occur including carbon monoxide which can be harmful to human health.