



I will

Burn it Smart!

Enjoy the benefits of your wood fire in comfort by taking a few simple steps. Which of these steps will you start with?

I will,

- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood that has been split properly. Green wood is a major culprit in the creation of creosote.
- Store wood outdoors, covered. Bringing in only the amount of wood needed for a day reduces the chance of allergy-causing mould spores circulating indoors.
- Burn small, hot fires. A smouldering fire creates more smoke, and smoke equals creosote build-up.
- Never burn garbage or glossy paper. Plastic, coloured ink on magazines and wrappers produce harmful chemicals and creosote when burned.
- Never burn treated wood or ocean driftwood. Particleboard, plywood, or any other painted or treated wood releases a toxic cloud of chemicals and can lead to creosote build up.
- Start my fire with newspaper and dry kindling, never with gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter or a propane torch. A fire can get out of hand quickly with fuels other than wood.
- Regularly remove ashes from my stove or fireplace. Store them outside in a covered metal container in a safe area away from the side of my house to avoid creating a fire hazard.
- Ensure that flammable household items - drapes, furniture, newspaper and books – are far away from the heat and stray sparks of my woodstove or fireplace.
- Keep the stove or insert doors closed unless I am loading or stoking the live fire. Fashion screens in front of an open fire will not contain the fire or embers.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in my home, and keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- At least once a year, have my stove or fireplace and chimney inspected by a WETT certified technician, or, in Quebec, by a technician certified by the Association des professionnels de chauffage.
- When my stove or fireplace insert needs replacing buy a new EPA-certified high efficiency wood stove, fireplace or insert.