

Burning Tips

Save money, clear the air and stay safe



Your Wood

Seasoned for 3-12 months (to reach at least 15% moisture content); dry wood burns easier and more efficiently; burning green wood is inefficient, leads to incomplete combustion, excessive smoke and creosote build-up



Split to expose more surface area and improve drying

Stacked to allow good air circulation

Covered to keep it dry



Ashes regularly removed from your cold wood stove to maintain proper airflow

Cold ashes can be bagged after 48 hrs and added to your black cart, or saved for your garden



Chimney fire risk reduced by brushing your chimney to clean out creosote

Check dampers and pipe for signs of deterioration or corrosion and replace if needed

Additional Resources

www.woodheat.org

- National website with everything you want to know about burning wood

Energy Mines and Resources - YG
Energy Solutions Centre
393-7063

www.energy.gov.yk.ca

- information on stove selection and sizing; fuel selection and storage; good burning practices; air quality impacts; WETT certified technicians
- Good Energy Rebates for EPA wood stoves

Forestry

www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry

- information on fuel wood harvesting permits

City of Whitehorse

www.whitehorse.ca/woodsmoke

- information and permit for wood stove installation; wood smoke issues; report a fire; open burning permit; wood harvesting within City limits



Whitehorse
City of Whitehorse

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THE WILDERNESS CITY

BURN-IT-SMART
WOOD SMOKE, STOVES AND YOU



INTERESTED IN HEATING WITH WOOD?

Heating with wood can be an attractive alternative - here's what you should know...

EPA Certified Stoves - mandatory requirement for installation in Whitehorse

- reduce wood consumption 20-25% and emissions up to 90%
- include different stove types (advanced combustion and catalytic stoves - pellet stoves only require ULC certification)

Appropriate Size - bigger is not necessarily better

- get advice from an energy advisor to select a stove that is sized for your heating needs
- a big stove may produce too much heat, forcing you to damp-it down (smoulder), especially in milder weather
- smouldering fires are less efficient and produce more smoke for you and your neighbours
- smouldering fires lead to higher creosote building-up, increasing the risk of chimney fire

Installation Permit - mandatory requirement of Whitehorse Building Inspections; at the time of application you will need to provide:

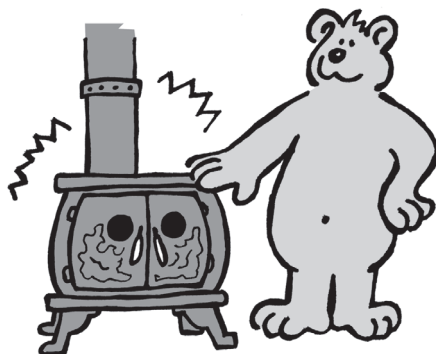
- woodstove model and make
- woodstove placement (room, distance from walls, shielding)
- chimney - make, flue size, factory built or masonry
- application fee

Fuel Source - restrictions on what you can burn

- only burn dry, seasoned fire wood
- start fire only with newspaper and kindling
- illegal to burn waste (paper, plastic, cardboard, magazines)
- illegal to burn composite wood (plywood, particle board)
- illegal to burn painted or treated wood

Regular Check-up - for your health and safety

- remove cold ashes frequently - maintains air circulation around the wood which increases hot burn
- consult a certified WETT technician to inspect and clean your chimney to remove creosote build-up, and to identify wood burning problems and provide solutions



WOOD SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH

Wood smoke contains small particles that can cause coughing, headaches and irritation to the throat. Children, elders and people with heart conditions are most susceptible to wood smoke pollutants.

Some contaminants found in wood smoke from burning clean-dry wood include:

- small particles - can lead to serious respiratory issues
- Carbon monoxide - causes headaches, nausea and can lead to death
- Formaldehyde - triggers asthma, coughing
- Hydrocarbons - causes damage to lungs
- Acrolein - can cause eye & respiratory irritation

The health risks of wood smoke can be reduced by your practices. Wood smoke should be white or not visible - if it is grey or black, there is a problem with your fuel, burning practices, stove or chimney.

NEVER burn glossy paper (magazines, photographs), white office paper, cardboard, plastic, Styrofoam, aluminum - these produce very toxic smoke, and can damage your stove's expensive catalytic converter.

