

WOOD SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH

Small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks. Wood smoke has also been linked to heart attacks in people with heart disease.

Even occasional exposure to wood smoke can cause watery eyes, stuffy noses and chest tightness. Everyone may experience symptoms, but children and the elderly are especially vulnerable.

IS YOUR WOOD DRY? Take the moisture meter test.



Wet wood can create excessive smoke, wastes fuel, and can cost as little as \$20. A moisture meter is available at most hardware stores.

Properly dried wood should have a moisture content of 20% or less.

Burn Wise
— Program Recommendations —

EPA
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

These recommendations are based on the U.S. EPA's Burn Wise program, which promotes cleaner, more efficient wood burning.

www.epa.gov/burnwise

FOUR EASY STEPS TO BURN DRY FIREWOOD

1 SPLIT



- Start with the right sized wood.
- Split wood dries much faster.
- Split wood in a range of sizes to fit your stove, but no larger than 6 inches.
- Split small pieces for kindling.

2 STACK



- Stack wood to allow air to circulate.
- Build the stack away from buildings.
- Keep wood off the ground using pallets or racks.
- Stack wood in a single row with the split side down.

3 COVER



- Cover the top of the stack to protect it from rain or snow.
- Leave the sides open for air flow.
- Make sure there is space between the cover and the wood.
- Keep the cover from resting directly on the wood.

4 STORE



- Allow enough time to dry.
- Softwoods take about 6 months.
- Hardwoods take about 12 months.
- Properly dried wood is lighter and sounds hollow when knocked against another piece.
- Moisture content should be 20% or less.

CLEAN AND EFFICIENT HEATING CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Start small fires with dry kindling, then add a few pieces of wood. | ☐ Check for local burn bans and avoid burning garbage, treated lumber, or saltwater driftwood. |
| ☐ Give the fire plenty of air – fully open the air controls until the fire is burning vigorously. | ☐ Have your stove and chimney professionally inspected and serviced yearly. |
| ☐ Burn the fire to heat the chimney or flue before adding more wood. | ☐ If available, refer to your owner's manual for start-up guidelines. |
| ☐ Keep space between the firewood as you add more to the fire. | ☐ A smoldering fire, dirty glass doors, or smoke from the chimney are all signs that the fire is not burning well or your wood is too moist. |



Chimney Sweep Master

CHIMNEY AND FIREPLACE

BURN DRY FIREWOOD

FOR A CLEANER,
SAFER HOME



847-516-4139