

Help reduce wood smoke in your community

All solid fuel heaters sold and installed in South Australia must comply with relevant Australian standards, so when buying a wood heater make sure it has a compliance plate showing it meets the Australian Standard for emissions (AS/NZS 4013) and is installed according to Australian Standard (AS/NZS 2918).

Ask your local retailer for more details on how to create a warm, smoke free environment.

It is important that you operate your heater correctly. Excessive smoke can become a serious environmental nuisance for neighbours, affecting not only their health but also home comfort.

For more information please contact your local council or go to EPA's website:
www.epa.sa.gov.au/woodsmoke



South Australia

General enquiries

(08) 8204 2004

Switchboard

(08) 8204 2000

Freecall

non-metropolitan callers only
1800 623 445

Fax

(08) 8124 4670

Email

epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Web

www.epa.sa.gov.au



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South Australia

BURN BETTER FOR GOOD



Tips on how to burn better for good!

Here are five simple steps to keep your home fire burning better and ensure your heater is running efficiently and does not emit excessive smoke.

Burning right is not only good for the environment and people's health by reducing wood smoke pollution, it is also good for your wallet, reducing your heating costs.

In winter, smoky wood heaters can produce as much air pollution as cars.

Help clear the air and reduce wood smoke pollution in your community.



2 Good wood storage.

Wood should be stored under a roof to keep it dry and in a ventilated area.

Stacking your wood loosely off the ground in a criss-cross fashion allows air to circulate freely. It is better to keep freshly cut wood at least eight months before use so that it is properly seasoned. Remember to split any unseasoned wood and then store in this manner.

Hardwoods take longer, about 12 months, to properly season than softwoods.



4 Go with the glow.

Don't pack your fire and leave it on a low setting overnight or when you go out as it will smoulder. Low burning and smouldering can produce up to 10 times more smoke than a brightly burning fire.

Never over-fill the heater with wood. Use several small logs rather than one large log and stack them loosely so that air can circulate.

Excess smoke may result in tar and soot building up in your flue. This can lead to your heater becoming harder to light and possibly increased maintenance costs.



1 Dry, seasoned wood is good.

Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Such logs should make a 'crack' when you hit one against the other, rather than the dull thud of a freshly cut log.

Fresh cut wood contains about half its weight in water and thus does not produce as much heat as it should. This causes excessive smoke and wastes money.

One way to ensure your firewood is properly seasoned and sustainably harvested is to buy it from a Firewood Association of Australia certified sustainable supplier.

Never burn rubbish, driftwood, painted or treated wood.



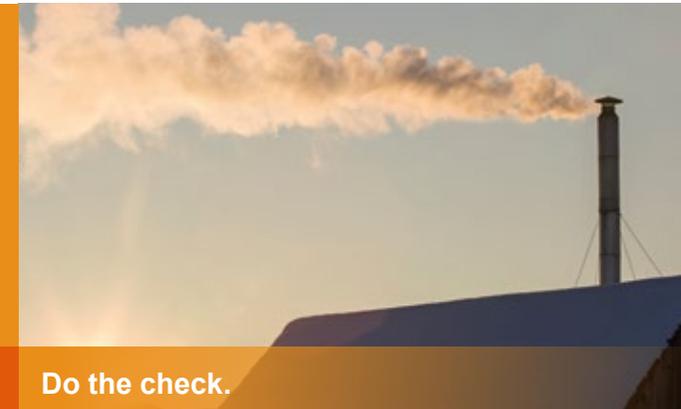
3 A good start.

Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch. Use kindling wood, paper or firelighters to start the fire and add larger pieces of wood when a bed of red-hot coals is established.

Keep the wood heater air vents open for 20 minutes after lighting the fire.

The first phase of burning wood can release very high concentrations of smoke. By ensuring there is a vigorous flame most of the smoke will be burnt before it goes up the flue.

Once the wood is burning fiercely, you may turn down the controls to give a comfortable fire.



5 Do the check.

Go outside and look at your flue. If after 20 minutes there is still smoke coming from your flue (and you followed the Good Burning steps) you may need to adjust the fuel or air vents to get a better fire.

With a little practice and care even the first few minutes after lighting the heater can be relatively smoke free. Remember to have your flue/chimney cleaned every year to prevent creosote build-up.

If you still have significant smoke coming from your flue contact your local wood heater supplier or call the EPA on (08) 8204 2004 for assistance.