

PROPERLY USING AND MAINTAINING YOUR WOOD-BURNING STOVE

More homeowners like you are turning to wood-burning stoves as an economical, energy-efficient, and eco-friendly home heating source. However, stoves are not hazard-free, so it's critical to understand the risks of using these appliances and how you can lessen them.

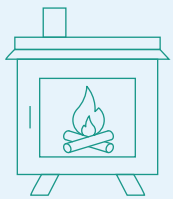
HOW TO SPOT TROUBLE WITH YOUR STOVE

Even if your stove is professionally installed and you take great care to operate it safely, you could still experience issues that can lead to a fire or other emergency. Make sure your entire family is aware of the following warning signs that could signal a problem.

- Dark smoke venting from the stove or chimney.
- Dramatic increase in dust (ash) around your home.
- Wood burns off very quickly rather than over several hours.
- Strong smell of smoke in your home.
- Lighting a fire is difficult and produces little heat.
- Warping of the steel along the tops and sides of the stove.

HOW COULD YOUR WOOD-BURNING STOVE CAUSE A FIRE?

- 1 Extreme heat radiates from the stove, stovepipe, or chimney, which could ignite walls, carpets, and other flammable items.
- 2 Wood in the stove pops and sparks, which could send smoldering embers into the room and onto rugs, drapes, and furniture.
- 3 Creosote, a highly flammable compound, builds up in the stove's chimney, and one spark or high temperatures could be ignited.



HOW TO PREVENT A WOOD STOVE-RELATED FIRE

First and foremost, hire a professional to do the installation. They should make sure that all building codes are being followed, your chimney fits your stove, and your home has the necessary infrastructure to support this new heating appliance. Once your stove has been professionally installed, you can do your part to keep it burning safely by following these safe-use tips.

CLEAR THE AREA

Maintain a minimum of three feet of clear space on all sides of the stove to prevent contact with flammable items.

OPEN THE DAMPER

Before lighting a fire, check that the damper is open, and don't close it until the fire is out and the embers are cold.

USE CLEAN WOOD

Never use flammable liquids to light a fire. Instead, start it with paper and dry kindling and then add properly seasoned wood to keep it burning.

CLOSE THE DOORS

Unless you're tending to the fire, keep stove doors closed at all times, including when your stove is not in use.

CONTROL THE CREOSOTE

At least once a day, maintain a briskly burning fire, and have your chimney and flue inspected and cleaned prior to the start of each season.

REMOVE THE ASHES

Wait 24 hours, then shovel ashes into a nonflammable container with a lid, and place outside in a safe spot for several days before emptying.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sucking sounds, a loud roar, or shaking pipes are signs there may be a fire in your stove's chimney. You should immediately call 911 and get everyone out of the house.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wood stoves cause over 4,000 residential fires every year.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wood-burning stoves can cause a deadly accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide poisoning when not functioning properly or cleaned correctly.

SOURCES:

Environmental Protection Agency, Wood Smoke Awareness Kit, https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-02/documents/wood_smoke_awareness_kit.pdf

NFPA Code No. 211, Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances