

HOW TO USE AND ENJOY YOUR NEW STOVE



WELCOME TO YOUR NEW STOVE

Now that you're the proud owner of a new stove, we felt it would be a good idea to offer some advice on how to keep safe and achieve the best and most efficient performance from your appliance.

When a HETAS Registered Installer has completed an installation you should have received a copy of the Certificate of Compliance, or been advised that it will arrive in the post.

This information is required by law and may be needed to validate household insurance. It will also be required by Solicitors in any home selling process.

You should also ensure that the following have been supplied by your HETAS Installer prior to using your new stove.

- **Notice plate**
- **CO Alarm** fitted by a registered installer. This ensures that the alarm is selected and fitted in accordance with the Building Regulations.
- You should also have a copy of the **Manufacturer's Instruction Manual**, so you can refer to the Use and Safety Information when you need to.

WHAT TO BURN?

Select a fuel type that matches your appliance's instructions and warranty for a long, reliable and safe service.

First, it's important to determine whether you have a wood-burning stove or a multi-fuel stove.

Wood burners have flat beds on which to load fuel, while **multi-fuel stoves** have grates. You can put wood on a multi-fuel stove, but you can't put coal on a wood-burning stove.

What wood should I burn?

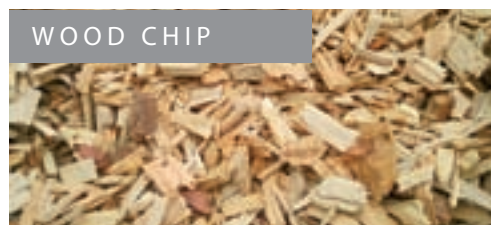
It is preferable to burn hardwoods, such as oak and ash, instead of softwoods like pine or fir - as hardwoods will take longer to burn - so you'll use less fuel.

You can reduce the moisture content of freshly cut wood by drying it yourself - also called seasoning. To do this, it's best to store the wood in a dry place for at least a year. To find out how dry your fuel is, and whether it's ready to use, you can buy moisture meters which cost around £20.

Wet logs will tend to blacken the glass in the stove, as the fire has to boil off water in the wood before any heat is provided to the room.



Here are some other wood based fuels you can burn.



You can find a wood fuel supplier at www.hetas.co.uk/find-fuels/ or call us for advice on **01684 278170**.

What solid mineral fuel should I burn?

To find the best fuel for your mineral fuel stove, contact your local **Approved Coal Merchant**.

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Local Authorities are responsible for designation and supervision of Smoke Control Areas. To be certain if you are, or are not, located in a Smoke Control Area it is recommended that you contact the Environmental Health or Protection department of your Local Authority.

In a Smoke Control Area, a solid fuel heating appliance must be either:

- An exempt appliance using only fuel specified in the appliance instructions or check the DEFRA web site for more information
- or
- Using an Authorised Smokeless Fuel

Firewood is not an Authorised Smokeless Fuel and is only permitted for use with an Exempt Appliance which has been excepted specifically for wood burning.



HOW TO LIGHT YOUR WOOD BURNING STOVE

Lighting your stove in the most effective way could take a little bit of practice, but the following steps are a good guideline to follow.

- 1 Fully open the primary air vent/control and airwash controls.
- 2 Place a firelighter or scrunched-up newspaper together with some dry kindling wood on the grate. Light the firelighter or paper.
- 3 Leave the door slightly ajar while the fire establishes and the glass warms up. This will help avoid condensation building up.
- 4 Once the fire is going, add some larger pieces of wood. (Do not fill the chamber with logs)
- 5 When the logs have caught and the fire is fully established, close the door completely.
- 6 Close the primary air control.
- 7 Use the airwash to control the burn rate when the appliance is at operating temperature.
- 8 Maintain the fire frequently with small amounts of additional fuel.

TIP The most effective technique for building the fire is to make a small stacked structure of wood by basically making a hash tag out of stacked kindling around a fire lighter with one single log on the top, bark side down.

HOW TO LIGHT YOUR MINERAL FUEL STOVE

- 1 Start with firelighter and a small amount of small sized coal.
- 2 Set the air control to maximum
- 3 Once the original fuel is well alight, start building up the fuel in the grate without overfilling the chamber.
- 4 Reduce the air intake once the whole bed of fuel is burning well.
- 5 Add more fuel at a frequency that keeps a good bed of red hot coals.

MAINTAINING YOUR STOVE

Wood burns best on a bed of its own ash - you don't have to clean it out before every use.

Mineral Fuel - empty the pan regularly to stop ash building and touching the underside of the grate. This will reduce air flow around / through the grate and can lead to overheating of grate bars and subsequent damage.

Throat plates to be cleared at least monthly, or when recommend by the manufacturer in the Instruction Manual.

Always replace **grate** and **fire bricks** if they become damaged.

Check the **stove door(s) rope seal** is still air-tight. Over time rope seals will become compressed sufficiently to allow some combustion air into the stove, reducing your ability to control the flame and also losing significant fuel efficiency.

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Chimneys should be swept **at least twice a year** when burning wood or bituminous house coal and **at least once a year** when burning smokeless fuels.

The best times to have your chimney swept are just before the start of the heating season and after any prolonged period of shut-down. If sweeping twice a year, the second time should be after the peak of the main heating season.

We recommend using a **HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep:**
www.hetas.co.uk/find-chimney-sweep/

ALWAYS LOOK
FOR THE
WOODSURE +PLUS
LOGO WHEN BUYING
YOUR WOOD FUEL



STAYING SAFE

To ensure your safety from the outset, make sure you use a **HETAS Registered Installer** to fit your stove. They will spot any problems and ensure the installation is completed safely.

You should also ensure a compliant **Carbon Monoxide Alarm** is securely fitted prior to using your stove.

Apart from remembering not to touch your stove when it's hot, your other main safety consideration is to get your chimney swept **at least once a year**. This prevents build-up of creosote and soot that can lead to chimney fires. Using properly seasoned wood, also helps prevent creosote deposits.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Always use the right fuel for the appliance - as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Keep all combustibles, including logs, at a safe distance from the hot stove.
- Make sure any external air ventilation grills are not blocked.
- Do not slow / slumber burn. Do not 'turn the stove down for the night'.
- Never leave an open fire unattended without a spark guard.
- Always use a securely fitted fireguard when children are in the house.
- Get your stove serviced annually by a HETAS Registered Installer.
- We recommend that you contact your insurer about your new stove as it may affect your insurance policy.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous gas. It is produced by incomplete burning of carbon based fuels.

CO has no taste, smell or colour and can be present in the fumes (combustion products) of gas, oil, solid mineral fuel or biomass burning appliances.



FIT AN AUDIBLE CO ALARM

Building Regulations Approved Document J now makes it compulsory in England & Wales, to fit a CO alarm complying with BS EN 50291 whenever a new or replacement solid fuel appliance is fitted in a dwelling.

The alarm must be permanently installed, be either mains or battery powered, and should incorporate self-test and audible alert if the battery or detector cell develops a fault.

LOOK OUT FOR EARLY SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can be very similar to many common ailments and may easily be confused with flu, viral infections, food poisoning, or simply tiredness or fatigue. Symptoms to look for include:

- Headaches
- Collapse
- Breathlessness
- Stomach pains
- Nausea
- Drowsiness
- Erratic behaviour
- Dizziness
- Visual problems
- Chest pains
- Tiredness
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness

If you feel unwell, go to your doctor, call NHS Direct on 111 (0845 4647 in some areas) or if it is urgent phone 999 for an ambulance. Tell them you feel your symptoms may be related to carbon monoxide poisoning.

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THESE HETAS LOGOS AND ID CARD

WHEN PURCHASING YOUR NEW STOVE



WHEN SELECTING GOOD QUALITY FUEL



WHEN EMPLOYING AN INSTALLER



ALWAYS ASK TO SEE A HETAS IDENTITY CARD BEFORE AN INSTALLER OR CHIMNEY SWEEP CARRIES OUT ANY WORK

WHEN FINDING A CHIMNEY SWEEP



HETAS - THE OFFICIAL BODY FOR SOLID FUEL, WOOD AND BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEMS, FUELS AND SERVICES

There are many ways you can connect with HETAS

- Visit us online at www.hetas.co.uk
- Call HETAS on **01684 278170**
- Send an email to info@hetas.co.uk
- Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hetasuk
- Follow HETAS on Twitter at [@hetas_uk](https://twitter.com/hetas_uk)
- Subscribe to our regular HETAS newsletter at www.hetas.co.uk/newsletter



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