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## **Guide to effective wood burning**

This document will outline how to get the best from your stove and provides a brief overview of the installation process right through to how to maintain your appliance throughout its life.

### **The installation**

As with all domestic or commercial heating appliances, it is imperative that you ensure your wood burning or multifuel stove is installed by a trained and competent person. There are several competent person schemes available, that are designed to offer the consumer peace of mind. However, HETAS has set itself apart as the most recognised regulatory body when it comes to solid fuel installations.

Where practicable, a stove or open fire should always be connected to a chimney liner. A chimney liner should form a seamless gas tight passage, from appliance to the atmosphere. There are several types of liner available, although when installing a wood burning stove the most common is the flexible liner which is made from stainless steel.

Alternatively, and arguably the best way to install a wood burning stove, is by using a factory made twin wall chimney system. Such systems are highly versatile and can be installed to run through floors, ceilings and penetrate roof coverings. The systems are again made from stainless steel and are insulated, which means the flue gasses reach temperature very quickly and in turn help the flu system draw.

### **The Fuel**

Once the appliance has been installed, the most essential element for safe and efficient use is without question, the fuel. Quality wood fuel is widely available, and can also be purchased directly through us, via <http://hotboxstoves.co.uk/hotbox-services/fuel-delivery>



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In a wood burning stove, it is recommended that you use wood with a moisture content of 20% or less. To achieve this moisture content, the fuel should have been seasoned for around 2 years also, the logs should be split.

Should you burn wet fuel, your stove will simply not work correctly, and you will create a creosote and tar build up within the flue, which will over time, cause a blockage. Further, by burning wet wood, your stove will fail to produce much heat, as most of the energy from the combustion process will be used to dry out the logs.

It is preferable to burn hardwoods, such as oak and ash. Hardwoods take longer to burn, and so you'll use less.

### **Storage of fuel**

Wood logs should be kept dry and stored in a covered log store to prevent water penetration, but still allowing for free movement of air around the fuel. The image below presents a good example of how fuel for use in wood burning appliances should be stored. Prior to burning the fuel, aim to bring as much as you need indoors, to further dry for 24 hours in advance of use.



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### **Lighting a wood burning stove**

Place firelighters, or paper, on the bottom of the stove. Then with small sticks (dry kindling) build a Jenga type of stack that will catch alight easily.

The image below depicts the ideal kindling stack:



Open the Primary Air Control of the stove and light your firelighter or paper and leave the door slightly open (this will increase the flue pull/draw and avoid condensation on the inside of the glass).

A successful fire, initially requires plenty of kindling to establish a hot firebox, and to warm the chimney to aid flue performance (a warm flue is a happy flue). Once the kindling is burning well add larger pieces of split wood (not thick logs). You may now close the door of the stove.

Add logs as required dependant on how much heat you require, move the Primary and any Secondary control levers to your desired positions.

It is imperative, that you keep your stove burning and are not tempted to slumber the stove by reducing the amount of air getting to the fuel as this will lead to, blackening of the glass and the creation of creosote and tar.



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## **Maintenance**

As with any home appliance it is important that routine maintenance is carried out.

It is widely recommended that the flue be swept twice per annum and, whilst this is being undertaken, we would recommend that the internal components of the stove are removed and the appliance is given a clean, so that all the air inlets are kept clear.

Servicing can be arranged through us by visiting <http://hotboxstoves.co.uk/hotbox-services/stove-maintenance>

Any stove has internal parts which are consumable, it will be necessary to replace the internal fire bricks and rope seals intermittently depending upon the stove that you have.

Most good quality units will not need to have the rope seals changed for the first 2 years or so. Spare parts for stoves are normally readily available and can be ordered through us.

## **Conclusions**

Should you have any questions relating to the content of this document or queries relating to how to use your stove please do not hesitate to contact us via the mediums below, we are happy to help:

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