

Wood Burning Stove

Instructions

There is a bit of an art to using a wood burning stove. If this type of stove is new to you, following these instructions will allow you to use the stove safely and get the most benefit. As each stove and installation is different these instructions will benefit those who have used other wood burners.

To start with here's the main points to remember:

1. Only use well seasoned logs, or manufactured products designed for wood burning stoves.
2. Follow the detailed instructions for your safety and the safety of the stove, flue and cottage.
3. Keep anything combustible (including logs, kindling, paper, lighters, matches, dog beds etc.) well away from the stove whilst the stove is in use. (Also keep any fuels away from other combustion sources.)
4. The exterior of the Stove including the glass gets extremely hot. Do not use if you can't ensure everyone including pets can be kept at a safe distance.
5. Do not leave the Stove unattended whilst lit.
6. Do not try to put the Stove on a slow burn to keep it going for hours on a single load of fuel.
7. Always close the Stove door and securely latch it whilst lit (unless reloading with fuel).
Never use with the door open.
8. Don't use when drunk or otherwise impaired.

IF THINGS GO WRONG – Keep the stove door shut, if possible close all the air vents, including the one at the back on the left. Dial 999 if things get out of hand.

Lighting The Stove

First fully open the spin wheels at the bottom and the air vents on the sides. The after burner vent on the left at the back should be left open at all times. Open the door make sure the ash pan isn't full.

Crumple, not too tight, 5 or 6 sheets of news paper, lay them on the grate, leave a couple of "ears" sticking out at the front so they can be easily lit.

Place a loose layer of kindling sticks on the paper and then two or three well seasoned logs.

Light the paper and gently close and latch the door.

Fire should spread through the paper and warm the flue to create a "draw", the kindling will soon ignite and after a while the logs.

After a while it will be roaring away and the logs will be blackening all over, at this stage you must close the bottom spin wheels to start controlling the burn. If the flames die down too much and logs start smoking, open the spin wheels again for a little longer.

When the logs start turning to glowing charcoal you can control the burn rate even more with the side vents. Don't shut them off more than about halfway or the glass will blacken and unburnt soot and tar will start clogging up the chimney flue.

Reloading

The first burn will have warmed the flue and surrounding stones as well as the stove. As the logs burn down to glowing embers the heat output slowly reduces. This is the cyclical nature of efficient burning. When only a thin layer is left on the grate with some reasonable glowing chunks of ember are left it is time to reload.

Fully open the top vents first and the bottom spin wheels, the draw of air should cause the embers to glow vigorously. Open the door and add some logs 2 or 3 or more but don't fill the firebox, leave at least 4 or five inches of space above the logs.

Note: Take care and watch out for embers they may get out of the fire box.

Close the door and the heat retained in the firebox along with the embers should be enough to heat then ignite the logs, if not you might need to add some kindling on the embers under the logs.

Keep the bottom spin wheels open as before until its roaring away again and the logs are well alight. Leave the top vents fully open for a while to make sure it all stays lit, close them down halfway when they are getting to the charcoal stage.

Repeat as required. The stove puts out enough heat to warm the whole house if you leave the doors open and let the heat rise.

Cleaning the Stove

Only attempt cleaning or clearing of the ash pan when the fire is out and it has all cooled down.

Bring a bag to the stove and empty the cold ashes from the pan in to it. You can clear some of the ash from the grate if you want but it's not necessary.

To clean the cold glass if required, dampen a piece of newspaper and dab in some ash. Gently wipe the glass to clear it, with clean dry newspaper you can easily wipe any smears.

Do Not wipe the stove with wet or damp cloths or any cleaning liquids. Just give it a dust down when cold with the hearth brush or hand brush.

Fuel Storage

Logs, paper, fire lighters, kindling can be stored safely and kept dry in the wash house. Only bring inside what you need for immediate use. It's safest to keep any quantity of anything that can easily burn out of the way. NEVER leave anything combustible anywhere near the lit stove.