



A new look at the worlds oldest fuelfirewood!

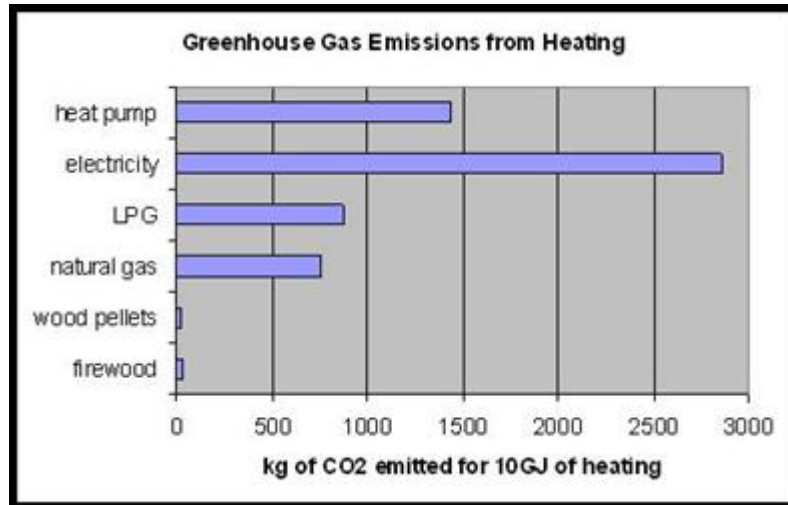
Many people enjoy the benefits of heating their home with a wood heater. As well as being both efficient and economical, the environmental and health benefits they provide are most welcomed.

The Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) believes that one of the many reasons wood heaters remain popular is that they offer very low running costs and have a high heat output, meaning that users can successfully heat several rooms, even an entire house with a single wood heater.

Australia has some of the toughest wood heater emission standards in the world. Australian manufacturers and the distributors of imported wood heating products have spent millions of dollars in research and development in an effort to ensure their heaters continue to meet these strict standards and work alongside Government bodies to improve air quality.

“Our industry has strongly supported Government initiatives to reduce urban wood smoke for many years and has spent more than \$30 million in the last 10 years in developing a new generation of wood heaters that reduce particulate emission levels by 80 per cent,” said Ms. Demi Brown, General Manager of the Australian Home Heating Association.

A 2005 study by Dr John Todd completed on behalf of the Australian Home Heating Association highlights the environmental benefits of using wood heaters. Importantly, it states that the use of wood produces a minimal amount of greenhouse gases compared to fossil fuels.



“Many people do not realise that the use of fossil fuels such as gas and coal for the production of electricity has wider global ramifications” says Demi Brown.

“Woodheaters are one of the lowest producers of greenhouse emissions and have the added benefit of being a renewable resource.” Ms Brown says.

The relationship between damp houses, asthma and other ailments is well documented*. Another notable benefit for wood heater users is that unlike most other forms of domestic heating, wood heaters generate enough heat so that some is actually absorbed by the house structure. A properly heated home will significantly reduce dampness.

Wood heating for many sections of the population represents the only economic and practical means of providing enough heat inside the home to achieve this.

“People should not underestimate the significant health benefits of living in a warm, dry indoor environment, especially when the outside environment is cold, damp. ” Ms Brown said.

The AHHA does advise that older, poorly operated wood heaters can also contribute to particle pollution. It is important that consumers ensure they are using a Australian Standard Certified wood heater, and understand how to operate the unit correctly and that they are aware of appropriate fuel types. A well operated heater will produce significantly more heat and fewer emissions from each piece of wood burnt.

Product information, operation advice and a list of AHHA member manufacturers can be found on the AHHA website www.homeheat.com.au

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For further information visit: www.homeheat.com.au

**Rubin, G (Sept 1996) Problems with asthma? What you can do at home, Publication No. BHC-322*