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## **AVOID A FINE -USE YOUR WOOD HEATER CORRECTLY**

Want to avoid a \$200 fine caused by an overly smokey flue? Then buy and use well seasoned firewood and put your worries behind you say the Australian Home Heating Association.

There are many ways to use a wood heater without any smoke and one way is to use well seasoned firewood. Smokey flues are often caused by burning wet or green wood, so it makes sense to burn well seasoned firewood and avoid being the target of a council fine.

When trees are initially felled the wood contains about 50 per cent moisture which needs to evaporate in order to prevent excessive smoke. Moisture content of firewood should be in the range of 15-20 per cent, any more and all you are doing is creating a lot of smoke.

Keep firewood undercover in a dry ventilated area, it is best stacked in a crisscross fashion allowing air between the logs to circulate freely. Most heaters burn better with three or four smaller logs rather than one or two larger ones but be careful as overloading can cause increased smoke.

Upgrading your wood heater to a clean burning and highly efficient model will also prevent excessive smoke. At a time when we are all concerned about the environment, using an Australian Standards approved wood heater you can be sure that you are not causing unnecessary damage to the environment. Woodheaters are one of the lowest producers of greenhouse emissions and have the added benefit of being a renewable resource.

Dark smouldering wood and a lot of smoke are signs of poor and incomplete burning so if people experience difficulty with their wood heater they can call the Australian Home Heating Association for some advice and a free copy of the Clear Skies DVD.

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### **TIPS FOR BETTER BURNING**

1. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood.
2. Have your flue checked and cleaned every year.
3. Buy your firewood from a reputable supplier.
4. If you collect your own firewood – collect in dryer months
5. Store wood in a crisscross fashion and keep it undercover.
6. Keep air controls open until the fire is burning brightly.

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**For further information or images contact the National Office of the Australian Home Heating Association or visit [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au).  
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