



MEDIA RELEASE

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‘Burn right tonight’ is the key message this winter

Like most acts of environmental responsibility, reducing wood smoke from your wood heater requires a little extra effort, but makes a remarkable difference.

Wood heaters conjure up images of lazy winter days spent reading a good book and romantic nights with loved ones by the fireside, but users need to be aware of the important role that they play in reducing wood smoke emissions.

Australia has some of the toughest wood heater emission standards in the world. According to the Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA), open brick fireplaces and older, less efficient wood heaters that aren't certified to Australian Standards affect winter air quality. So, to help the environment and keep warm this winter, it is important to know how to operate your wood heater correctly.

Initially, it is important for consumers to choose the wood heater that is appropriate for them. There are several things to consider including location and size of the home. The best advice on choosing the right wood heater for your home will come from your local Australian Home Heating Association member. They know your local conditions and in most cases can visit your home.

Wood heater users should then ask for advice on how to correctly operate the unit and ensure 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.

TIPS FOR REDUCING EMISSIONS

The Fuel

- ✓ ONLY burn dry, well seasoned wood – not treated wood or green wood.
- ✓ Store wood in a criss-cross fashion, under cover.
- ✓ Never use petrol, kerosene or oil to start fire.
- ✓ Buy wood from a reputable supplier.

The Fire

- ✓ Use kindling wood, paper and firelighters to get your fire started.
Add
larger pieces of wood only after red hot coals have been established.
- ✓ Build small fire regularly and provide plenty of air. Most heaters will burn better with 3 or 4 smaller (2-4kg) logs rather than 1 or 2 big logs.
- ✓ Keep air slide fully open for at least 20 minutes after refuelling.
- ✓ Always remember 'a little air avoids a lot of smoke'.

The Flue

- ✓ Make it a habit to look outside and check your flue for smoke. If it is smoking excessively, you are wasting fuel and may be causing unnecessary emissions.
- ✓ Make sure that your flue complies with minimum height requirements.

When installed and operated correctly, wood heaters are one of the most effective and economical ways to heat your home. So, when you come in from the cold enjoy your wood heaters welcome embrace but remember to 'burn right tonight'.

Refer to the Australian Home Heating Associations' (AHHA) website for information, helpful hints and important contact details. Visit www.homeheat.com.au

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