



What's Hot for Winter from the AHHA

A wood burning stove or heating fireplace bathes the room with a rich, soothing warmth that no other energy source can equal. The fire's radiance gives a welcome embrace as you come in from the cold. So what's hot for winter heating in 2004?

According to the Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA), older, less efficient wood heaters that aren't certified to Australian Standards and open brick fireplaces, affect winter air quality. So, to help the environment and keep warm this winter, the AHHA recommends:

- Householders with pre-1992 wood heater models not certified to Australian Standards should consider upgrading their older model to an AS4013:1999 certified wood heater. You can check this by looking on the back of the unit. All certified wood heaters will have a compliance plate.
- Open brick fireplaces, while providing ambience, are not an efficient heating source with most of the heat being lost up the chimney. An alternative is a heat circulating open fireplace insert, which can be fitted into your existing open brick fireplace. Inserts allow you to keep the charm of a fireplace, but are a much more effective source of heating.

Heat your whole home:

Controlled combustion wood heaters can heat your whole home. They are not just room heaters like gas and electric units. So, which one is best for your home? There are three types of controlled combustion wood heaters:

Convection – Convection heaters are designed with air cavities around the outside of the firebox and then a decorative outer casing. These outer casings may be tiled, heat proof glass or painted or enamelled metal sides. The air rises between the two surfaces and expands, drawing more air from below and forcing the heated air out through the top of the cavity. A new high technology clean burning wood heater can produce over 3 cubic metres of heated air per minute. This is why convection heaters are suited to conventional Australian homes with hallways and separate rooms. Safety is an important aspect of convection heaters to families with children as the double walled outer casings keep the external panels cooler.

Fan Forced – Fan forced heaters are usually a convection style heater with a 2 or 3 speed blower fitted to increase the speed of the normal convection process and are ideal for larger homes where air movement is a priority.

Radiant – Radiant heaters are those where all sides of the firebox are exposed and are ideal for large open areas where heat can travel in a straight line, such as large family rooms, showrooms or pool rooms. They provide the least expensive form of wood heaters.

Getting help:

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 and give on the spot advice to supplying the best size and type of heater for your home and budget.