



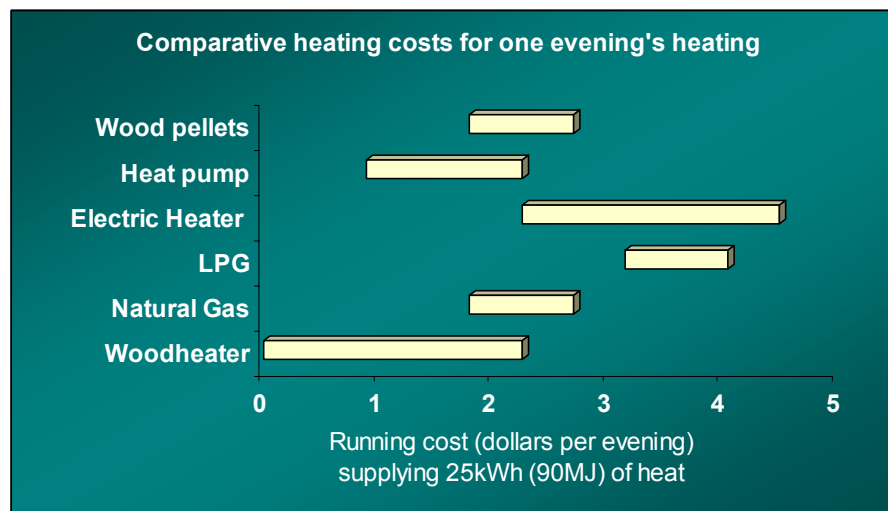
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## **MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES - BUT CHEAP FUEL DOES**

**If you're looking for a way to heat your home effectively and economically, then there's no better option than wood heating.**

A report compiled by Dr John Todd for the Australian Home Heating Association shows that running a wood heater offers fantastic savings when compared with other forms of heating<sup>1</sup>. And that's not all. According to the report, heat output from firewood appliances results in an overall sense of warmth that cannot be obtained from other fuels.

So how exactly does wood heating measure up against the other fuels on offer? Assuming a tonne of firewood costs \$0-250, the cost difference as shown in the graph below is staggeringly in favour of wood heating.



This shows the comparative costs for heating a 'typical' living area on a cool evening. The heat supplied is 90MJ or 25kW.

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For further information or images contact Hannah Hempenstall, Media Officer, Australian Home Heating Association or visit [www.homeheat.com.au](http://www.homeheat.com.au).

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In layman's terms, the amount of heat needed to warm an average living space for one evening is roughly 90MJ or 25kW. To generate that much heat you would need to run two electric fan heaters on high for five hours, or a wall mounted gas heater on high (6.5kW) from 5pm to 7pm (to warm the living space) and then on medium (3kW) from 7pm to 11pm, or burn about 9kg of firewood in a wood heater in an evening. So it's not just the financial factor that shows benefits, it's the heat efficiency as well.

Surveys of households using woodheaters consistently show a very high user satisfaction rate which is an added bonus to the cost saving. The report says that one of the main reasons people like their woodheaters is due it producing a "nice" heat. The most likely explanation of this view is described as people enjoying a mix of radiant and convective heat. Woodheaters give off a warmth and ambience like no other fuel. Think about how you feel when you're relaxing in front of a cosy log fire versus other heating appliances. It simply doesn't compare.

Far from being expensive to run, wood heaters are a safe, efficient and cost effective way to heat your home. So with a roaring fire (and the extra money you'll save on heating bills), even winter can become something to look forward to.

<sup>1</sup> Comparison of Residential Heating Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Firewood, Gas and Electricity by Dr John Todd, June 2005.

## **5 TIPS FOR BETTER BURNING**

- 1. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood.**
- 2. Allow full air for 15-20 minutes after each addition of wood.**
- 3. Use kindling wood and firelighters to get the fire started.**
- 4. Never use petrol, kerosene or oil to start the fire.**
- 5. Don't close air supply totally overnight; a little air avoids a lot of smoke.**

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