



Generating Wood Heat

I don't seem to be getting very much heat from my appliance.

What am I doing wrong?

When our experts are called to homes for a diagnostic visit, we usually notice the following as to why heat their wood-burning appliance is not generating the heat they believe it should:

It is not an efficient or air-tight appliance.

Older units send most of the heat up your chimney system instead of into your home. Newer systems have air-tight doors with secondary burn systems which ensures that the heat from the wood (as well as the gasses being emitted from the wood) enter your home instead of being sent outside.

Wet wood.

Everyone says they burn dry wood because they know the guy who knows the guy.... The reality is that if your wood is not split and stored in a top-covered area where wind and sun can dry it out for a minimum of 12 months (preferably 24), your wood is wet. If you are unsure, look at purchasing a wood moisture meter (available in our store). You will be amazed at how much water is in your wood and how much energy is consumed by your system to simply boil the water in the wood.

Ideally, your wood should be:

- Store outside
- Split and stacked for 1-2 years before using
- Top covered
- Open on all sides so that wind can pass through

It is the opinion of many experts that stacked wood or 'dry' wood purchased from suppliers is not dry enough for today's new EPA approved wood burning appliances.

Common wet wood symptoms:

- 'Boiling' or 'hissing' sound
- Visually notice boiling water or steam
- Lack of heat
- Dirty glass
- Hard to ignite

Improper Burn Techniques.

New efficient wood burning systems must be used and operated in a specific fashion. As a general rule, follow these guidelines:

- Get your flue gas temperatures up to approximately 800 degrees – hot!
- Fill the firebox up with wood (again) and wait 5-7 minutes
- Close the door, shut off most of the air and do not open the door for 6 – 40 hours (depending on the size of your firebox) or until only a few coals are left. Every time you open your door you are cooling your entire system.

For more information