Pellet & Corn Maintenance

Congratulations on purchasing a pellet appliance! Whether you purchased it in order to save the environment or to save money on hone heating costs, your pellet appliance (if purchased from a reputable retailer) will provide you with years of inexpensive heat. For the purpose of this document, we will refer to corn & pellet interchangeably and/or as biomass.

Ash Drawer
Empty the ash drawer regularly (every few days to once per month) so that ash does not accumulate in the firepot.

Burn Area
The burn area is typically referred to as the burn pot and should be checked daily to ensure that all air inlets are open. In particular, you should ensure that there is no clinker buildup. If ash in the burn pot starts to melt then it can block the air holes of the incoming air and upset the mixture of air and fuel (often referred to as a clinker). Incorrect adjustment of the air to fuel ratio will increase the likelihood of clinker formation. Due to the stove's inability to adequately burn the excess fuel and remove the excess ash that is building up in the burn pot. Clinkers are easily removed (even while the stove is in operation) by using the ash tool or rake that comes with your pellet stove. Refer to your owner's manual for frequency of cleaning.

With a clean burn pot, the flame should be a bright yellow (almost white) and 'dances' quickly. It is normal for you to notice a white or gray build up of ash on the glass on high burn and a darker fluffy ash on low burn. But if the flame is orange and sooty or there is a build up of a brown caramel-like substance, then your stove is burning inefficiently.

Heat Exchanger
The heat exchanger transfers heat from the burning fuel to clean hot air for distribution into the home. This is usually done by a chamber or a series of tubes located in the firebox that the hot air and gasses pass over, heating the outside of the chamber before exiting the stove. Fresh air is passed through the inside of the chamber drawing the heat out of the stove and into the room. For maximum efficiency the surface of the heat exchanger should be cleaned regularly. The frequency of these cleanings will depend on your stove design and quality of fuel (ranging from daily to monthly). Refer to your owner's manual for cleaning instructions. On some stoves, cleaning is simply a matter of moving a rod that scrapes the tubes inside the stove, while others may require professional service.

Ash Traps
These are located behind the fire chamber which prevents excess fly ash in the exhaust from exiting the stove.

Glass
Clean with special wood glass cleaner when the glass is completely cool.

Hopper and Auger
Check for accumulated sawdust materials (fines). The fuel in the hopper and auger tube should be run out occasionally to prevent auger blockage by fines.