

STOKE IT UP!

Heating instructions for stoves



The stove manufacturer or the mason will provide the operating instructions for their appliances. Begin the heating of new stoves carefully. The following instructions have been made for stoves, which have been used earlier. Stoves are made for different uses and they all have their individual characteristics which must be learned to get the most out of them.

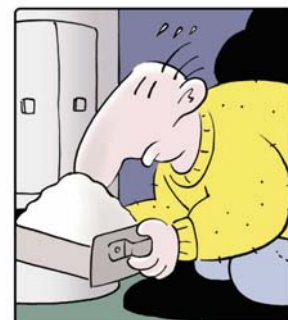
Have kindling and dry wood ready

Get some kindling and dry wood. Suitable wood moisture content is between 15 and 20%. Dry logs will make a "clinking" sound when you hit them against each another. Dry sticks, newspaper, bark and wood chips make good kindling. You will need a couple of armfuls to stoke the stove. You can add 3-5 kg at a time. Use kindling and smaller pieces of wood when you light the fire, weighing approximately 0.5 kg and with a diameter of about 5 cm. The length of the wood is determined by the size of the firebox. Logs should be about 5 cm shorter than the firebox width or length. You can use bigger logs when you add more wood, weighing approximately 1 kg with a diameter of about 10 cm. This is about the size of a one-litre milk carton. Use smaller logs, less than 4 cm in diameters, for cooking stoves.

Plastic packages and magazine paper should not be used for kindling. Neither should you use painted or impregnated wood. Impregnated wood is a hazardous waste.



...AND THEN CHECK
THE ASH BOX.
IT MUST
NOT BE FULL.



Preparation is important

Open the flue gas damper and check the amount of ash. The ash must not reach up to the bottom grate bars and air must be allowed to enter the firebox. Remove the ashes and put them into an incombustible container, which has a lid and legs.

If the stove has been unused for a long time, the draught may be poor. If the air in the chimney is damp or colder than the outside temperature, there will be no draught in the chimney. The air in the chimney must be made to move by heating it. Check the draught by burning a match in the stove door opening. Preheat the chimney if the flame on the match does not bend towards the firebox. Remove the ash box below the fireplace and burn newspaper in the side channels or use a gas heater.

If the stove has two flue gas dampers, open the top one when lighting the fire, which will cause the chimney gases to pass straight in the chimney instead of going round the side channels. When the chimney temperature rises and a proper draught is created, close the top damper.

YOU WILL NEED THIN LOGS TO LIGHT THE FIRE. THEY MUST BE DRY ENOUGH TO MAKE A CLINKING SOUND WHEN YOU HIT THEM AGAINST EACH OTHER. YOU CAN ALSO USE NEWSPAPER OR WOOD BARK IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE. DRY WOOD CHIPS WILL DO FINE, TOO...



Light the fire with a small amount of wood

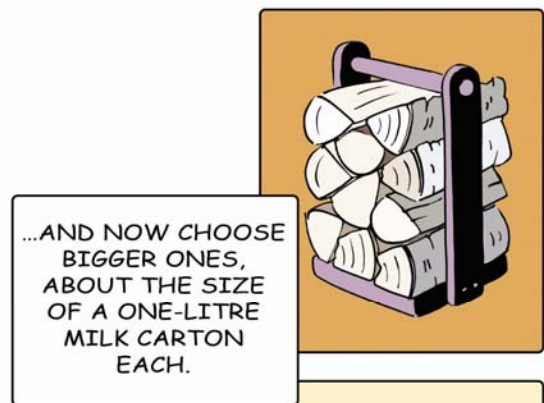
Use only a small amount of wood (about 3 kg) when you start. The logs should be about 5 cm in diameter. If you have been heating the stove the previous day, you can use bigger logs. Pile them loosely and place the kindling on top or below, depending on the type of grate. Pile the logs horizontally unless the stove manufacturer advises otherwise. The fire door can be closed when the fire is burning properly.



Add the wood gradually

Do not add more wood until the previous logs have burned almost completely and the flames are nearly gone. Place the bark side preferably down. Avoid moving the logs so as not to interrupt the burning process. The flames require a lot of air to burn properly.

Do not stoke the fireplace full up. At least one third of the fireplace must be left empty. Stoves and central heating furnaces must be filled no more than half way up.



DO NOT STOKE THE STOVE ALL THE WAY UP. YOU MUST LEAVE AT LEAST ONE THIRD EMPTY.

Embers release plenty of energy

Glowing embers release a great deal of heat, 25-40% of the wood's energy content. Reduce the amount of air going into the firebox through fire door and poke any embers that have darkened. You can adjust the flue gas damper to let through less heat when you cannot see blue flames. When the embers have burned up altogether, close the flue gas damper completely. If you are not quite sure when it is safe to close the damper, you can drill a small hole in the middle of it to allow a small draught even if it is closed.

ONCE YOU HAVE STOPPED THE HEATING, DO NOT CLOSE THE DAMPER TOO EARLY BECAUSE OF CARBON MONOXIDE.



TOO EARLY...



...WAIT FOR THE EMBERS TO BURN COMPLETELY.

If you have a baking oven, pile all the embers into the secondary combustion chamber in the back or front of the firebox and let the embers burn up completely under the grate. When the embers have burned up completely, you can close the damper.

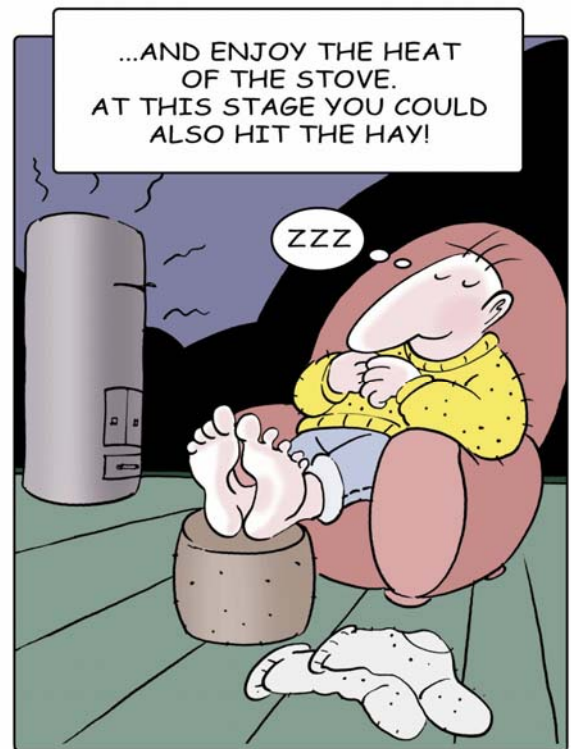


...RIGHT, NOW YOU CAN CLOSE IT ALL THE WAY...


Burning has been successful when the flue ways of the appliance are light with no dark soot.

Some important points'

- Do not burn waste in the stove.
- Make sure combustion is complete before you close the flue gas dampers.
- Do not leave the fire unattended during the heating.
- Do not put ashes in the compost. The ashes can be used as fertilizer.
- Remember to have the stove swept regularly. The house owner is responsible for this. Wood burning appliances which are in continuous use must be swept once a year. Always use professional chimney sweepers?



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Intelligent Energy  Europe

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