

Around the House
HVAC Article #15 – Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

Headline

Sticks & Stones Can Break Your Bones...
But Burning the Wrong Wood Can Really Hurt You!

Subhead

In this article: important safety tips on how to get the most comfort from your wood stove or fireplace...*without* exposing your family to harmful indoor air pollutants.

Text

When the first winter chill creeps into the air, many of us start thinking about our wood stove or fireplace...and all the cheer and warmth that go along with them.

Now, by following a few energy and health-related tips, you'll enjoy the experience even more.

As with most things in life, wood stove and fireplace technologies have improved over time. Today's wood stoves, for example, come in many shapes and sizes. Some burn wood while others burn **composite materials made especially for energy-efficient heating** and almost pollution-free burning.

If you're burning wood, then **your stove or fireplace and chimney needs to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a year**. The purpose is to remove creosote, the tar-like substance that builds up over time...a substance you don't want to be inhaling. **Creosote is a mixture of several chemicals** which can cause a number of health problems, including respiratory irritation.

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Once that's done, you're ready to begin a new season of warm, cozy fires...but only with wood specifically designed for that purpose. By contrast, **wood from your own yard is most likely coated with chemicals** you've used over time to protect your lawn and trees. Once burned, chemicals release back into the environment and your family's lungs...definitely not a good thing.

Hard woods such as oak are typically denser, burn slower and generate more heat than their soft wood counterparts. **The perfect fire starts fast, burns at a high temperature to eliminate as many air pollutants as possible** and remains burning for a few hours per load. **Many newer wood stove models have their own catalytic combustors** to burn off pollutants before they can enter your air space.

We hope, you've found this information useful for your healthier and more comfortable living "*Around the House.*" What's more, (company name) is pleased to offer you a **\$25 discount on a complete heating system tune-up and inspection** with the coupon below.

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Teaser Copy

Inside This Issue of “Around the House”...

Ready to get all snuggly in front of the fireplace? Allow us to suggest a few preliminary precautions...for your own sake.

Plus...

3 Coupons You Can Use Now!