



Good Firewood

The key to cleaner burning

Enjoy the heat, not the smoke

To get maximum heat and minimum smoke you need to burn dry wood. Ideally you should get your firewood from a Good Wood supplier. If you gather and burn your own firewood, it's important to minimise the smoke emissions from your fire. With dry wood you have less smoke and more heat.

Tips for gathering and storing your wood

- Gather firewood at least six months before you need to burn it. This gives it plenty of time to dry.
- Hardwoods like gum, beech, manuka and macrocarpa take much longer to dry than softer wood like pine, willow and poplar.
- Split wood dries faster. Split logs into pieces about 15cm thick before stacking.
- Make sure that wood is clean, and that dirt is brushed off before stacking.
- All pieces should be cut about 7cm shorter than your firebox.
- Stack wood off the ground on poles or pallets, preferably in a sunny place with the bark side down to allow moisture to evaporate.
- Allow room in the stack for air to circulate.
- Cover the top of the stack with a tarpaulin or roof to keep rain out.

How to tell if your wood is dry enough

- Two dry pieces banged together sound hollow; wet pieces sound solid and dull.
- Dry wood is lighter.
- When you split a piece of wood the exposed surface should not feel damp.
- Dry wood burns easily. Wet wood is hard to light.

Tips on buying firewood



suppliers

- Look in the phone book for certified who will ensure you have dry wood.
- Soft woods (pine, willow and poplar) are cheaper to buy than hard woods (gum, beech, manuka and macrocarpa), because their energy content is lower.

Better burning tips

- Use dry, seasoned wood.
- Don't overload the fire box.
- Keep the air flow high enough to allow the fire to burn brightly.
- If there is soot build-up on the glass door of your wood burner, you need to open the flue to let more air in so it burns hotter. This will clear the glass of soot.
- Don't stoke the fire and turn down the air flow overnight. (This is one of the worst things you can do – it makes lots of smoke and very little heat).

Things to check

- Clean the chimney at the start of winter.
- Remove ash build-up from the base of the fire.
- Check your chimney for smoke. If there's still smoke 15 minutes after adding wood, it isn't burning properly.



Did you know?

- You should not use your wood burner to dispose of rubbish.
- You should not burn plastic, treated timber, fibreboard, rubber, waste oils, glossy paper, asbestos products or radioactive materials. Burning these is prohibited under the Council Plan. They can also damage your wood burner or fire.
- A good practice guide for operating wood burners is available from Tasman District Council offices.

