

Useful Hints and Tips

The Home Heating Association recommends wood burning fireplaces be serviced annually and cleaned regularly to ensure safe and efficient operation. This in turn reduces smoke output.

Thousands of chimney fires occur every year and at anytime wood is burned in a fireplace, soot and creosote are produced. Soot is made up of fine, black carbon particles and creosote is an oily, flammable liquid tar. These by-products cling to the inside of the chimney and can easily cause a chimney fire if not swept regularly.

Obstructions such as bird nests, soot falling into the baffle chamber, possums nesting, and even leaves and cobwebs can be removed with sweeping.

Hills Clean Sweep can provide valuable advice on many different aspects of your fireplace, flue system, flue termination and ventilation requirements as well as a multitude of other things to help you heat your home safely and efficiently with minimal impact on the environment.

The best time to have your fireplace cleaned and serviced is after the winter season (September to March). This will not only ensure prompt service, but also minimizes the damage and corrosive effects from debris and condensation left within the firebox and flue system during the off season.

Points to consider for the safe and efficient operation of your wood heater:

- Ensure that you only burn dry and well seasoned hardwood.
- Firewood should be left to dry for at least two summers so you don't waste energy evaporating water by burning green wood.
- Ensure your chimney or firebox and flue system is cleaned and serviced regularly to prevent excessive smoke output, blockages and chimney fires.
- Use softwood kindling to start and then progressively work to larger pieces of hardwood.
- When lighting and reloading, allow full air into the system for at least 15 minutes afterwards.
- Do not close down the air supply overnight. This will add to the build up of creosote.
- Close as many doors, windows and curtains as possible until desired temperature is reached, then open doors to naturally convect the heat throughout.
- Install ceiling fans to circulate the heat back down and around the house.

A wood burning heater emits less Greenhouse Gases than any other form of home heating, providing a heat that no other energy source can equal. A slow combustion fireplace delivers the lowest costs for heating your entire home with the smallest greenhouse footprint. With its all-natural ingredients, a wood heater embraces you and your family when you come in from the cold.

When you warm your life with wood, you participate in a natural cycle and an ancient human ritual that has continued since the dawn of humanity.

Firewood is a renewable source for home heating that emits the same Co2 into the atmosphere that would occur naturally if the timber was left to rot on the forest floor. Burning wood for warmth is still satisfying.

True, it takes a little extra effort, but like tending a garden or home cooking a meal, you are always rewarded.

Over 1.1 million Australian families can't be wrong.

For more helpful information visit the Australian Home Heating Association website - www.homeheat.com.au