

# Clean Burning Checklist



## THE FUEL



### ✓ CONSIDER MANUFACTURED LOGS

Manufactured logs are a cleaner choice for ambience burning in your fireplace. Read up or consult your local hearth dealer about which energy logs are appropriate for your stove or insert. And always store manufactured logs in a dry location.

### ✓ SPLIT YOUR FIREWOOD PRIOR TO STACKING

Split firewood is exposed to air, which helps it dry. Dry firewood provides more heat with less smoke.

### ✓ STORE YOUR FIREWOOD OFF THE GROUND AND COVERED FROM THE ELEMENTS

Keeping your wood covered and off the ground will allow air to circulate and ensure it will remain dry. This can also help reduce the number of unwanted critters making homes in your woodpile.

### ✓ SEASON (STORE) YOUR WOOD FOR AT LEAST 6-12 MONTHS BEFORE BURNING

In order to achieve a hot burning, low-smoke fire, wood must be seasoned for at least 6-12 months. Seasoned means dry and properly stored. In the Puget Sound region's wet climate, firewood can take a full 12 months to properly season.

### ✓ CHECK YOUR WOOD BEFORE BURNING

Use a moisture meter to check the moisture of your wood. Wood is ready to burn when the moisture content is below 20% or the wood sounds hollow when knocked together.

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## THE DEVICE



### ✓ CHOOSE A CLEAN BURNING DEVICE, SUCH AS A PELLET STOVE OR EPA CERTIFIED WOOD STOVE

Uncertified wood stoves and fireplace inserts can produce twice as much pollution as cleaner, EPA certified devices. Switching to a certified device will help reduce the amount of fuel needed to maintain adequate heat in your home.

### ✓ READ THE MANUAL FOR YOUR DEVICE

Each manufacturer provides a useful manual for their products. Reading the manual will ensure you know the ins and outs of your device and understand how to get the best performance possible.

## THE FIRE



### ✓ BURN SMALL, HOT FIRES

Keeping your fire small and hot is critical. They will keep you toasty and are much better for the air – both inside your home and out.

### ✓ MANAGE YOUR SMOKE

Think of wood smoke as wasted heat. If your fire is smoky, you aren't getting all of the warmth out of your wood.

Monitor the smoke coming from your chimney. Ideally, you should barely be able to see it 20 minutes after starting or reloading your fire – if at all. If it appears thick, you need to adjust your airflow or fuel, or check to make sure you are only using dry, seasoned wood. If these measures don't reduce the smoke, it may be time to replace your device.

### ✓ NEVER LET YOUR FIRE SMOLDER

Especially not overnight. It's bad for the air inside your home and the air around your neighborhood.