



4th edition Oct 2018



We all breathe the same air

Visit the campaign website
for more useful information and videos

[www.burn\(right\).co.uk](http://www.burn(right).co.uk)



BurnRight is the national consumer awareness campaign designed to help you get the most from your fire and fuel. Getting it right will save you money, make you safer and significantly reduce unnecessary air pollution.

Campaign Website - www.burnright.co.uk Digital brochure - goo.gl/7N7eYz

For more information on the BurnRight campaign please contact: info@burnright.co.uk

We all breathe the same air

Do you use a woodburning stove or open fire?

There is a health problem in the UK which affects us all. Air pollution comes from a number of sources e.g. vehicle engines, construction, agriculture and roads (dust from passing traffic). **Woodburning stoves** and **open fires** also contribute to this pollution but much of it is unnecessary and can be avoided.

These sources of pollution create tiny particles in the air. They can pass into our homes and workplaces, entering our lungs and causing health problems.

Air quality is a national problem that affects rural communities as well as towns and cities.

If you use a woodburning stove or open fire there are some simple steps you can take to make a big difference. The BurnRight campaign is here to help you understand what causes these problems and then help you "Get it right"

Getting it right

- **Is easy!**
- **Will save you money**
- **Will reduce the risk of chimney fire**
- **Will help to reduce air pollution**

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What is the problem?

Air pollution from burning wood and coal can cause health issues for us all. Much of this pollution is unnecessary. If we understand what causes it we can make a big difference to local air quality.

Your local professional chimney sweep or stove installer can really help. They can explain what causes the problem and show you how to 'Get it right', saving you money, keeping you safer and reducing air pollution. If they can't explain it then find someone who can.

The main problem of air pollution is caused by not burning the wood hot enough in woodburning stoves. The main reason wood is not burned hot enough is because the air controls are closed off too much by the user.

Turning the air control down too much will reduce the burning temperature and create unnecessary pollution.

It is very important to run your stove efficiently (hot enough) but how will you know if you are **'Getting it right'**?

There are four things that affect how hot wood burns in your stove: The efficiency of the stove and the chimney, the moisture in the wood (20% or less) and, most important of all, how you control or operate your stove. Put another way, you can have dry wood burning in an efficient stove, but if the air is closed off too much, then lots of unnecessary pollution is produced and you probably won't even know.



Smoke = wasted fuel, soot and tar in the chimney and unnecessary pollution.

Not burning your wood hot enough causes several problems:

- Unnecessary pollution
- Wastes fuel (money)
- Soot / tar deposits can cause chimney fire or dangerous blockage
- Stoves and chimneys don't last as long

A good sweep / installer will take time to explain and show you how to get it right. They can advise on the best stove for your needs. They can easily check the moisture content in your logs. This should be 20% or less. They can advise on log storage. All sweeps will have local contacts for good quality dry fuel.

How will you know if you are part of the pollution problem?

You probably won't know, that's why it is so important to follow the BurnRight information in this brochure and talk to your sweep about it. Consumers are largely unaware of the issues. The government has highlighted BurnRight and the role of chimney sweeps in its **'Clean Air Strategy'**. Follow the campaign at www.burnright.co.uk



The wood in the stove was 'slumbered' for long periods, leading to a lots of pollution and a dangerous chimney.

Getting it right

**Burn it hot
to burn the lot**

Getting it right is easy once you know how and it really is important. You can have a great fire and chimney with lovely dry fuel, but if it's not burning hot enough, you will create unnecessary pollution with every burn. Bringing your fire up to the correct operating temperature quickly and keeping it there will give the best result. Pollution will be minimised, you'll save money and your chimney will be cleaner and safer.

Lighting and operating

Please check the manufacturer's information for correct operation of your stove. Most stoves in the UK are 'multifuel', although the most common fuel is wood logs. Most stoves are not suitable for burning "house coal". Most multi-fuel stove manufacturers will specify smokeless coals only if using a coal-based fuel.

Step 1



Use plenty of small kindling.

Step 2



Set all air controls to fully open.

Step 3



Allow reasonable burn for 10 to 15 minutes.

Basic guide

Use plenty of small kindling or a suitable firelighter so that the fire is quickly established. Slightly larger logs go on top. Use wood with a moisture content of 20% or less. Look for the 'Ready to Burn' logo if purchasing small bags / nets of fuel.

Set all air controls to fully open, light the fire and close the door.

Allow a reasonable burn for 10 to 15 minutes (basically, flames should fill the box without being sucked up the chimney). It will take at least this long to bring the stove up to a good operating temperature.

Re-fuel now with slightly larger logs and allow a few minutes to establish. Once these are burning properly full size logs can be added. When your stove is properly hot it's time to set the air controls. All stoves are different so check the instructions. The best stoves pre-heat the air getting in to the box. This improves efficiency and reduces pollution. It's best to ask a professional chimney sweep / installer to show you how it works and have them explain why it's so important.

When the controls are properly set the temperature will continue to rise for a while. Using a flue pipe thermometer will help you know when you have reached the best temperature. When using a thermometer, aim for the middle of the 'best operation' range. Again, ask your chimney sweep / installer to explain this to you. If they can't explain or don't think it's important then best find another sweep!

Step 4



Re-fuel with slightly larger logs.

Step 5



When it's hot enough you *may* be able to close off the air control but **not too much**.

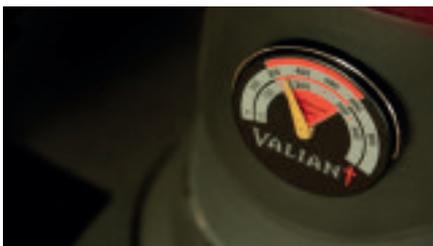
Once you reach optimum temperature, closing the control will reduce the air. Reducing this air will slow the rate of burn but it is **vital** not to close it off too much. There should always be a reasonable amount of flame in the box and the glass should stay clear.

When the stove is running at optimum temperature you can check you have set the controls correctly by looking at the top of your chimney. If you see any smoke, then there is not enough air getting into the stove. Open the control up a little to allow the fire to build for a few minutes and then have another look. Once there is no smoke, you've got it right!

Every stove is different and you need to know what is best for you. Ask your local professional sweep / installer to explain the process for your stove. All sweeps should help you get it right - it makes cleaning the chimney easier next time! Following their advice will save you fuel (money), it will mean your chimney is cleaner (safer) and you will have created less pollution in your local area.

More campaign information at www.burnright.co.uk or follow us on facebook and twitter.

Step 6



Keep it hot - if you are using a flue thermometer, aim for the middle of "best operation".

Step 7



Maintain a good bright flame with medium sized logs.

Step 8



Check the top of the chimney - if you see smoke, adjust the air controls.



See the Getting it Right video at: burnright.co.uk

Useful tools

Flue pipe thermometer • Moisture meter • Stove fan

These tools will help you get the very best from your stove and your fuel. They can save you money, help keep the chimney cleaner and reduce unnecessary air pollution. They are relatively cheap and easy to use. All are widely available but your local professional sweep will often supply them or show you where to obtain them.



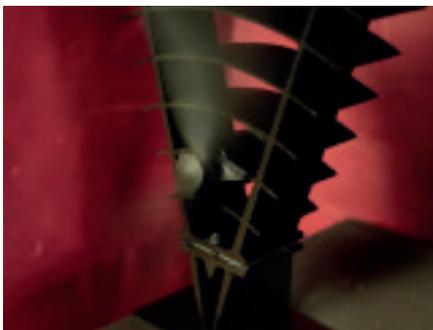
Thermometer

A flue pipe thermometer or stove thermometer is usually attached to the pipe coming from the top of your stove. It helps you to know when your stove is burning at the best temperature. Try to aim for the middle of the 'best temperature' range on the meter. You will soon learn how to reach this temperature quickly and keep it there.



Moisture meter

This measures the amount of water in your logs. You should aim for 20% moisture or less. If the moisture is more than this, the wood will burn less efficiently and you will waste fuel and increase pollution. To test moisture content properly the log must be split in half. Then test the freshly split surface. You may not get a correct reading if you just test the outer surface.



Stove fan

This is a small fan which sits on top of your stove. It is powered by heat from the surface of the stove so there are no batteries or wires. Once the stove reaches a good operating temperature the fan will effectively 'mix' or 'stir' the hot air rising from the surface. If you can distribute the heat more evenly you may be more comfortable. You may need less fuel to feel warm enough and once again air pollution can be reduced.

The fans are low powered so you won't notice any draught.



To view the video please visit:
burnright.co.uk/save-money/useful-tools/

Smoke Control Areas

All larger towns and cities have Smoke Control Areas, often called 'smokeless zones'. If you use a woodburner or open fire in a Smokeless zone it's important to know the rules or you may be committing an offence. Worse still, you may be contributing to pollution problems where you and many others live and work. You can contact your council to find out if you live in a "smokeless zone"

Sweeps will often hear "What harm can a few logs do?" or, "It's just a little bit of coal" But in a smokeless zone, a lot of people "just burning a little" can cause a real problem.

Open fires in smokeless zones

Any fuel burned on an open fire in a SCA must be an 'authorised fuel'. This is because you are only allowed to burn smokeless coals or anthracite.

Do not burn wood, wood products or "house coal" on an open fire, you will be committing an offence. Not only is it an offence to burn unauthorised fuels, but you'll be introducing a large amounts of pollution into your local neighbourhood. Ignoring these rules is bad news for your air quality. You are allowed to start the fire with small wood kindling, etc.

Woodburning stoves in smokeless zones

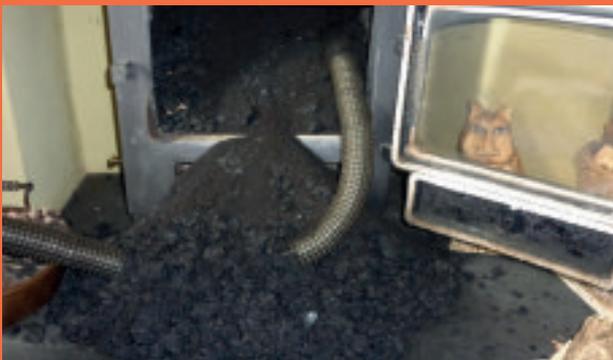
Any stove installed in a Smoke Control Area must legally be an 'exempted appliance', often referred to as Defra EXEMPT. Exempt appliances apply to Defra jurisdiction in England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have a similar process but local requirements may vary. Details of exempted appliances can be found on Gov.uk at: <https://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/appliances.php>
Exempted appliances are designed to burn the fuel more

efficiently and so reduce potential air pollution. Even so, appliances vary greatly, so it's very important to follow the guidelines here, in the '**Getting it Right**' section.

Exempted appliances require you to use specified fuel(s) and they need to be operated in accordance with the instruction and installation manuals and when any other conditions are met. Exempted multifuel stoves can usually burn authorised (smokeless) fuel or wood logs / authorised wood-based products with a low moisture content.

Have you have moved to a house in a Smoke Controlled Area?

If there is a woodburning stove in your new house you should check the documentation to make sure it is an exempted appliance or seek professional advice. If you've just moved then get the chimneys swept and ask for advice on your fire and fuel.



This stove is capable of burning very cleanly. The logs used were dry and the chimney was lined and insulated. However, the owner got into bad burning habits, closing the air controls off for long periods. This produced the solid black tar or creosote which nearly blocked this chimney. If there had been a chimney fire the liner would have been destroyed or worse. A lot of unnecessary air pollution was produced to create this much deposit in the chimney.

Dos and Donts

*Burn it hot
to burn the lot*

Cleaner efficient burning is mostly about burning temperature, particularly when burning wood. Small, low temperature long burning fires are bad news for air quality.

Do

- ✓ Bring the stove to operating temperature quickly and try to keep it there.
- ✓ Use dry wood - 20% moisture or less (look out for the 'Ready to Burn' logo).
- ✓ Use manufacturer's recommended fuels.
- ✓ Sweep your chimney regularly. A professional sweep can give lots of useful extra advice.
- ✓ Store and stack your logs so they are well ventilated.
- ✓ Use a thermometer, moisture meter and stove fan to help improve efficiency, save money and reduce pollution.
- ✓ Fit a carbon monoxide alarm. This has nothing to do with how the stove burns, it's just common sense.
- ✓ If you have an older or inefficient stove or one that's too powerful, consider replacing it with a modern efficient model. You'll instantly begin to save money and burn cleaner.



Don't

- ✗ Don't close off the air to 'slumber' the fuel for long periods or overnight. Even closing the air a "bit" much will create some unnecessary pollution.
- ✗ Don't use large logs - 5 inch / 125mm diameter is best.
- ✗ Don't burn wood or coal on open fires in Smoke Control Areas.
- ✗ Unless you have just lit or just refuelled the fire, don't allow smoke to come from the top of the chimney.
- ✗ Don't buy a stove which is too big (too powerful) for the room. You'll get too hot and be likely to shut the air controls too much. The burning temperature will drop, fuel is wasted and pollution increased.
- ✗ Don't be tempted to fit or alter any part of a chimney or solid fuel system yourself - it's far too easy to get something wrong.
- ✗ Don't mix smokeless fuel and wood as you won't get the best from either and it can create problems.
- ✗ Don't burn plastic waste or treated waste wood. It stinks and it's toxic.

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