

## What should I know about heating my home or cabin?

All homeowners are strongly encouraged to have:

1. An annual inspection and tune-up of all combustion appliances such as furnaces, boilers, and water heaters.
2. Fireplaces, stoves, and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually.
3. A thorough energy audit including a blower door test to determine the overall air tightness and typical operating pressure regimes for the home or cabin.

### Smoke alarms

Be sure that your home and cabin has a properly installed smoke alarm on each floor and outside all sleeping areas. Be safety smart and test the batteries monthly. Alarms should be UL tested and watch for replacement dates.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas often formed in the process of incomplete combustion of organic substances, including fuels. Be sure that your home and cabin has a properly installed carbon monoxide detector. Be safety smart and test the batteries monthly. Watch for replacement dates.

Do not store fuel in your home or unvented garage or unvented storage shed. Do not use open flame heaters in your home.

### Candles

A candle can produce levels of carbon monoxide which are measurable. You should never leave the candle burning in a room that is fully closed off or when you leave your home. Additionally candles generally burn inefficiently and the results are black soot.

### Exhaust Fans

A combustion safety issue that occurs commonly in homes but is seldom discussed is negative pressure. Any device that exhausts house/cabin air or uses house/cabin air for combustion can create negative pressure in the house. Negative pressure caused by the wood burning device can cause dangerous spillage and/or back drafting of furnace and water heaters.

## Patio Heaters

- **Keep Them Outside**  
PATIO HEATERS ARE DESIGNED FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY NEVER use them indoors or within an enclosed structure such as a tent to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Look Up and Around**  
Install heaters according to the manufacturers' instructions regarding ceiling height clearance and proper distancing from any fire hazards, building openings or mechanical air intakes.
- **Keep Them Stable**  
Make sure heaters are on a stable surface so they don't get knocked over.
- **Move Them with Care**  
NEVER move portable heaters while the flame is lit. Make sure the fuel supply is properly shut off and the unit cool before relocating.
- **Keep an Eye on Them**  
NEVER LEAVE patio heaters unattended. Additional caution should be used when children or inebriated adults are in the vicinity.

## Wood Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

### **2020 EPA & does it affect my wood-burning stove**

#### **What is the EPA**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in December 1970 by an executive order of United States President Richard Nixon. The EPA is an agency of the United States federal government whose mission is to protect human and environmental health.

#### **What does an EPA certified wood stove mean?**

The Environmental Protection Agency is an American organization that coordinates the application of laws whose goal is to protect the environment. EPA certified wood stoves meet emissions guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **What are manufacturers doing to meet the new requirements?**

With new guidelines coming in 2020, manufacturers are redesigning many of their wood burning fireplaces and stoves completely. Some are adding combustors to give you longer burn times and more controlled heat well others are reducing the burn times and meeting the new guidelines but burning hotter. Some companies have been able to meet the requirements for quite some time now.

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## **EPA is American, why does it matter to us in Canada?**

The United States has such a huge market that over 63% of wood-burning stoves and fireplaces are sold in the USA. This is a huge market, so manufacturers need to consider this. They don't want to have to build a stove for one country and a different one for another. In most cases, Canada does adopt the same regulations as the United States. The change will likely affect Canadians later and more gradually.

## **What about the stove I have installed now?**

EPA does not apply to stoves that are currently installed in homes; It just means that new stoves purchased after the May 15th, 2020 need to meet all requirements for the new EPA regulations in the United States.

## **What by-products are produced from burning wood?**

Smoke forms when wood or other organic matter burns. The smoke from wood burning is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles (also called particle pollution, particulate matter, or PM). In addition to particle pollution, wood smoke contains several toxic, harmful air pollutants, including:

- benzene
- formaldehyde
- acrolein
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

The more efficiently you burn wood (e.g., using an EPA-certified wood stove and dry, seasoned wood), the less smoke is created.

## **Most Insurance Companies will require WETT Inspection prior to insuring.**

A WETT inspection, short for Wood Energy Technology Training, is a thorough inspection of **ALL** types of wood burning appliances. Also, most insurance companies require a WETT inspection prior to issuing a Home Policy, so check with your representative.