

Old Wood Stoves are Dusty, Smoky and Inefficient

Wood stoves sold before 1992 have hidden issues that require attention. They produce too much smoke because they do a poor job of burning wood. They pollute your neighborhood while making the inside of your home dusty and sooty. And, they waste firewood, generate a tremendous amount of ash and create excessive creosote.

Smoky Stoves and Your Health

Runny eyes, stuffy noses and chest tightness are potential health impacts of breathing wood smoke. Even occasional wood burning can create problems – especially for children and older adults. For people with health concerns, using an old wood stove is not a good idea. Smoke can aggravate lung disease causing asthma attacks and bronchitis. And, in people with heart disease, it has been linked to heart attacks.



Is your stove old? Stoves with solid doors are generally older and are candidates for replacement.

Replace with New Technology

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends replacing old wood stoves with modern heating appliances, whether they are used occasionally or frequently. This can reduce smoke and dust, as well as cut heating expenses. Making the switch can also help protect people's health and make your home safer. There are many clean burning options, from gas to high-tech wood stoves certified by the EPA to be clean burning. There are also pellet, corn or oil stoves, as well as fireplace inserts and masonry heaters.



New stoves offer a stylish and cozy heat, and are available in many sizes and colors. They also have an EPA label on the back that indicates that they are certified.

Retailers Can Help You

A hearth retailer can guide you through the wood stove removal and replacement process, including professional installation for safety. They also will ensure the old stove is recycled. With hundreds of stoves to choose from, the variety and cost ranges are wide – from \$500 to \$3,000 before installation. Some local governments and agencies offer incentives for replacement.

Professional Installation Matters

Improperly installed stoves, and chimneys, might cause a house fire or spill smoke back into a house. A hearth specialty retailer can arrange professional installation by a technician certified by the National Fireplace Institute®.

Stoves and chimneys should be inspected by a certified chimney sweep once a year to prevent chimney fires.

~Chimney Safety Institute of America

Benefits of New Stoves

SAVE Money

- 50% more efficient than older models.
- Use less fuel for the same amount of heat.

INCREASE Safety

- Decrease creosote buildup in your chimney.
- Reduce the risk of a home fire.

CLEAN UP the Neighborhood

- Decrease pollution by 70%.
- Improve the community's air.

PROTECT the Indoors

- Minimize dust on surfaces.
- Improve the air inside a home by 70%.

Take a **Second Look** at Your Stove

A wood burning stove can create a warm and cozy home. But, if the stove was manufactured with old technology, then it probably should be replaced. If any of these items relate to your household, then it might be time to take another look at your wood stove.

- ◉ We notice a lot of smoke coming from the chimney.
- ◉ We see more dust around the house when we use the wood stove.
- ◉ Our family experiences more runny eyes and stuffy noses after we use the wood stove.
- ◉ We have children with asthma or other lung problems.
- ◉ A family member has heart disease or emphysema.
- ◉ We are constantly feeding the stove with wood.



Partners in Replacement

EPA and partners are working together to encourage people to replace old wood stoves with more efficient and cleaner burning stoves and fireplace inserts.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association
Chimney Safety Institute of America
American Lung Association
National Fireplace Institute
Steel Recycling Institute
U.S. Department of Energy

www.epa.gov/woodstoves or
www.woodstovechangeout.org



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YOUR OLD WOOD STOVE'S

DIRTY

LITTLE SECRETS