

## Video Title: Wood Smoke: Tips for a Cleaner Burn

The video provides tips for cleaner burning, including burning dry wood, building small hot fires, maintaining your stove, and avoiding poor burning conditions, etc., to dramatically reduce smoke and improve efficiency.

### Key Content:

- **Health Impact:** Wood burning produces gases and particulate matter that can harm your health and the health of your family and neighbors, but proper burning practices can reduce smoke.
- **Illegal Burning / Toxic Emissions:** Burning treated or painted wood, garbage, or demolition debris is illegal, which can damage your stove, and creates toxic pollution.
- **Dry Wood Importance:** Only clean, untreated wood that has been properly dried should be used. Dry wood burns better than wet wood and using proper techniques can improve efficiency and reduce pollution.
- **Fire Starting Basics:** When lighting a fire, first remove any build-up of ash from the firebox. Start with a clean firebox, use newspaper (five to ten pieces of newspaper crumpled into balls in the firebox) and dry kindling (fifteen to twenty pieces of dry kindling on top of newspaper), open the damper, and light in multiple places to build a proper fire.
- **Building the Fire:** Add two or three small pieces of firewood first, then gradually increase the wood size as the fire grows.
- **Airflow / Hot Fire:** Keep vents fully open until a hot fire is established; visible smoke should mainly occur only during startup.
- **Avoid Smoldering:** burn small, hot fires. Overloading your stove then damping it down causes more smoke.
- **Reloading Technique:** Reload when the fire has mostly burned down to a hot bed of coals, adding around three pieces at a time to sustain heat.
- **Maintenance / Safety:** An annual inspection and maintenance of your wood stove ensures safer and more efficient operation.
- **Chimney Hazard:** Creosote buildup reduces performance and creates a fire risk, so chimneys should be inspected and cleaned regularly (at the same time as the annual stove inspection).
- **Fireplace efficiency:** Traditional fireplaces lose most heat straight up the chimney and are not effective for heating or reducing pollution.
- **Air Quality Impact:** Wood smoke can harm neighbors, so avoid burning during poor air quality conditions like air quality advisories, temperature inversions, or fog.

- **Modern Stove Benefits:** EPA-Certified wood stoves reduce pollution and save wood, with up to 70% less emissions and 30% less fuel use.
- **Realistic Expectation: Using a certified appliance and** clean burning practices won't eliminate smoke, but it can reduce smoke greatly.

**Following clean burning practices benefits your health, saves money, and supports your community.**

Brought to you by Fraser Basin Council

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