

How You Burn Makes a Difference

1. Burn dry wood.

- ⇒ Dry logs provide up to 44% more heat than wet unseasoned logs
- ⇒ Shelter your logs from the weather to reduce creosote build-up in your chimney.
- ⇒ Stack wood in alternate directions to allow it to dry faster
- ⇒ Split wood before stacking it to reduce drying time
- ⇒ Store wood in a shelter with good circulation at least 6 inches off the ground

2. Burn seasoned wood.

- ⇒ Season your wood at least 6 months for the greatest benefits for heat output
- ⇒ Seasoned wood makes a knocking sound when you bang two split pieces together
- ⇒ Green wood produces more smoke because it's burning inefficiently and not giving as much heat as it would once seasoned.



3. Burn the right kind of tree

- ⇒ Douglas fir
- ⇒ Lodgepole Pine
- ⇒ Larch/Tamarack
- ⇒ These trees burn more efficiently unlike Cottonwoods.

4. Keep the Damper open to maintain a hot fire. Don't damper down at night.

- ⇒ Smoldering fires cause six times more emissions than a hot clean fire and put creosote into your chimney

5. Don't overload your stove

- ⇒ Start your fire with small dry kindling
- ⇒ Put a few logs in at frequent intervals to maintain a hot fire

6. Go outside and check your chimney for smoke.

- ⇒ Very little smoke should be coming out of your chimney.

7. Check your chimney for creosote buildup to increase efficiency and reduce the chance of fires.

8. Don't burn on poor air quality days.

- ⇒ Call the Air Quality Hotline for the latest air quality status reports 258-3600 or the website
- ⇒ www.co.missoula.mt.us/airquality