

Wood Heating

A GUIDE TO:

**BURN LESS WOOD,
MAKE LESS SMOKE,
BE MORE COMFORTABLE**

Canada

Think Safety

No wood heating system is complete without these essential devices.

Install a smoke detector AND a carbon monoxide detector—follow the manufacturer's instructions. Carbon monoxide is a colourless and odourless gas, a deadly byproduct of a smokey wood fire. Do not choose between a smoke detector or a carbon monoxide detector—BOTH are equally important!

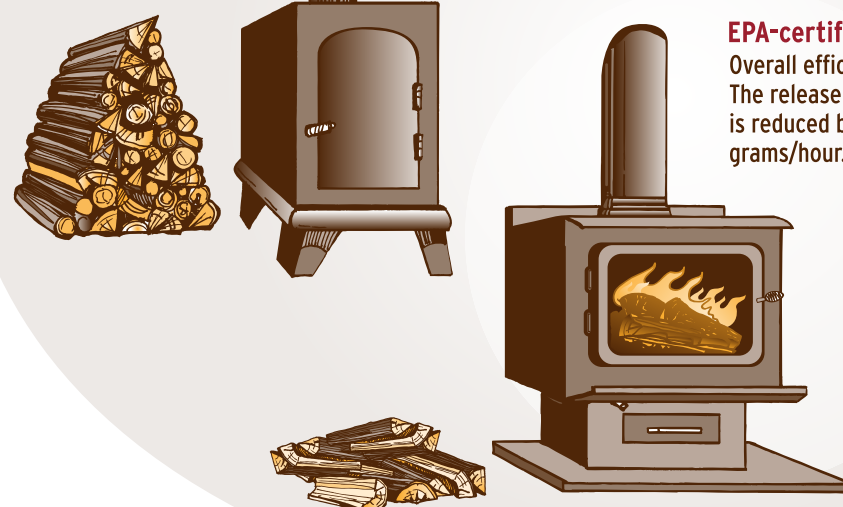
Keep an ABC fire extinguisher handy in case your fire gets out of control.

Your smoke detector is your first defense against fire. If your stove is smoking, fix the problem, don't disconnect.

Time for a New Stove?

The best way to improve wood burning efficiency is to replace your stove with an advanced technology, EPA-certified model. They cost a little more, but your community will be healthier, your home safer and you will save time and money on wood—they're worth it.

Conventional Wood Stove
Overall efficiency: 40–50%.
40–60 grams/hour of smoke/pollutants are released.

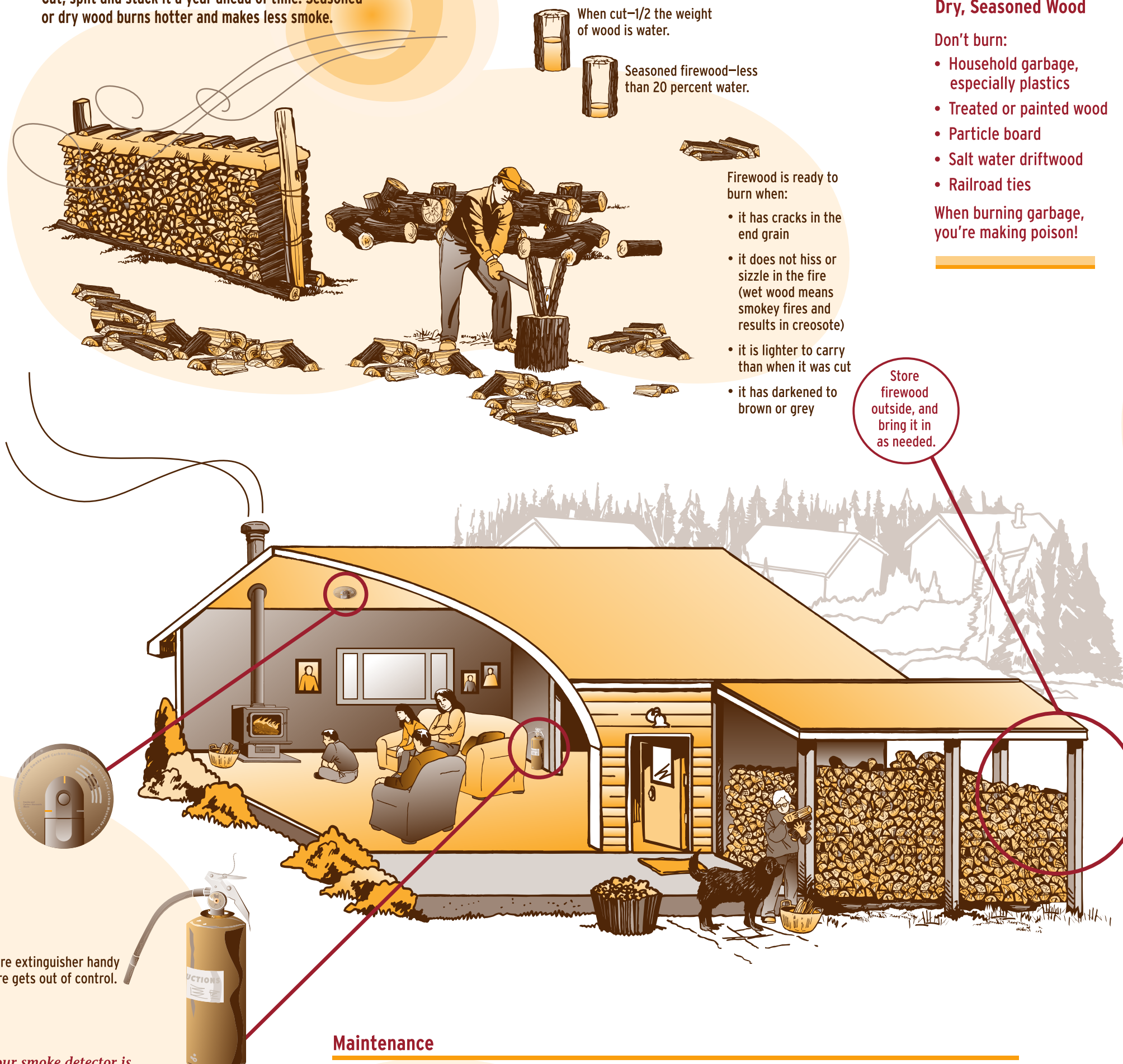


EPA-certified Wood Stove
Overall efficiency: 60–80%.
The release of smoke/pollutants is reduced by up to 90% to 2–5 grams/hour. 1/3 less wood is used.

Finally, don't reuse your old stove. Ask at your band office where to dispose of it. Using your old stove elsewhere defeats the very reasons you bought the new one: improved efficiency, cost savings and pollution reduction.

Good Firewood

Cut, split and stack it a year ahead of time. Seasoned or dry wood burns hotter and makes less smoke.



When cut—1/2 the weight of wood is water.

Seasoned firewood—less than 20 percent water.

Firewood is ready to burn when:

- it has cracks in the end grain
- it does not hiss or sizzle in the fire (wet wood means smokey fires and results in creosote)
- it is lighter to carry than when it was cut
- it has darkened to brown or grey

Store firewood outside, and bring it in as needed.

Burn Only Clean, Dry, Seasoned Wood

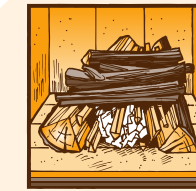
Don't burn:

- Household garbage, especially plastics
- Treated or painted wood
- Particle board
- Salt water driftwood
- Railroad ties

When burning garbage, you're making poison!

Building a Better Wood Fire

Good fires flame brightly and don't smolder.



To start a wood fire, place two split logs alongside each other—about 10 cm (4 inches) apart. Put some crumpled newspaper, bark or small kindling pieces between the logs. Place more kindling and larger pieces across the two logs, smaller logs on top.

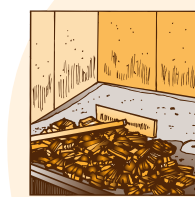


NEVER use gasoline or oil to start a fire. This may cause an explosion.

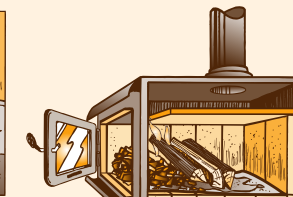
Make sure your fire is burning well and the chimney is warm, creating good draft before closing the damper.

Reloading Your Wood Stove

Wood burns best in a batch, several logs at a time rather than adding one piece every hour or so.



Before adding wood, rake hot coals to the front, near the air inlet.



Place small, dry pieces of wood on the coals.



Close door.

Open the air control fully and/or crack the door to get the wood flaming quickly.

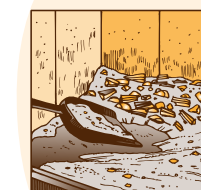
NEVER leave a stove with an open door unattended.

Once the fire has fully engaged, close and latch the door and adjust the air inlet.

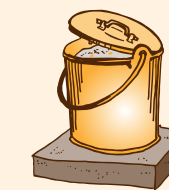
When wood is burning properly, there will be less smoke from the chimney—light and white, not black. What colour is the smoke coming from your chimney?

Dealing with Wood Ash

It's a good habit to remove a small amount of wood ash every morning, before reloading your stove.



Too much ash will smother the live embers.



Ashes often contain embers that stay hot for days. Put ashes in a metal bucket with a lid and place it outside and away from the house. **NEVER** store ashes on a wooden porch or deck.



Ashes can be spread in the garden to improve the soil.

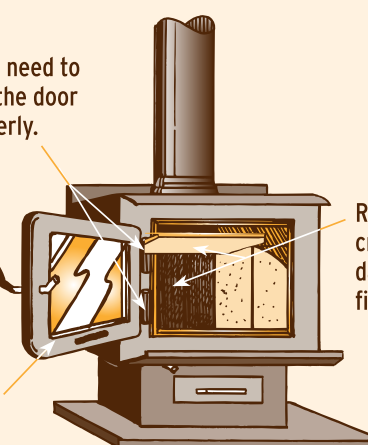
Maintenance

Inspect your stove for wear or damage.

Door hinges need to be tight so the door closes properly.

Adjust the door latch so the door will tightly seal.

Replace missing or worn door gaskets.



Replace any cracked or damaged firebrick.

Inspect the chimney regularly

Clean as often as needed to avoid creosote build-up that can lead to chimney fires.



Creosote is evidence of poor wood burning. It is a shiny black substance that accumulates in the chimney and fluepipe—it is very flammable.

The poorer the burning habits, the more often you need to clean.

- Replace rusty flue pipes with new black ones—no galvanized pipe.
- Put three screws in each pipe joint.

Did You Know?

- EPA-certified stoves means reduced clearances from combustible walls—often 30–40 cm (12–16 inches) compared to as much as 120 cm (48 inches) for older stoves.
- Double-wall flue pipes only require 15 cm (6 inches) clearance while single wall pipes require 45 cm (18 inches) clearance.
- Chimneys located inside the house remain warmer, have better draft and reduced creosote.
- Combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are now available.
- Your wood heating system should be inspected by a professional, someone who is trained and certified. Look for the logo—WETT (or APC in Quebec).
- Wood smoke contains many of the same toxic substances found in cigarette smoke. Whether the smoke is found indoors or out, young children, the elders and those who suffer from breathing or heart problems are affected by these pollutants.

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