

However!!!

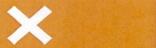
If all else fails you may consider contacting your local Council. This must be in writing and it must include your name and contact details.

However, Council advises we CANNOT take action on issues where normal wood smoke is emitted from a domestic dwelling.

These emissions are specifically exempt from the provisions of the Health Act 1911 and subordinate Health Legislation.

We suggest you contact the Department of Environment and Conservation for further information on (08) 9725 4300.

Chimney Checker



Moderate Fire



Dull Fire



Bright Fire



SHIRE OF DARDANUP

WOOD SMOKE



SHIRE OF DARDANUP

1 Council Drive, Eaton WA 6232

PO Box 7016, Eaton WA 6232

Phone: 9724 0000

Fax: 9724 0091

E-mail: records@dardanup.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dardanup.wa.gov.au



Shire of Dardanup
1 Council Drive, Eaton

Phone: 9724 0000

Your Neighbourhood & Wood Smoke

Wood heaters are a major source of air pollution during winter. Particle emissions from wood heaters (as smoke) are often significant contributors to haze events. Wood heater owners have a responsibility to ensure their wood heater operates correctly and only burn dry, seasoned firewood. When we breathe in wood smoke, a fraction of the smoke particles are retained in our lungs, impacting on our health.

These fine particles are particularly dangerous to people who have existing respiratory problems as well as the very young and the elderly. Even if you are healthy you can still be negatively affected by wood smoke causing you to feel lethargic and generally unwell.

Dry, well seasoned firewood will save you money! It produces less smoke and gives you more heat for your dollar. Wet or green wood generates 50 per cent less heat and causes your wood heater to smoke excessively.

Here are some simple steps to make sure the firewood you burn is the best for our environment:

- Stockpiling wood in summer is the way to go. You'll have an adequate supply of dry, well seasoned firewood to see you through the winter.
- Choose your firewood carefully. It is illegal for firewood retailers to sell wood with a moisture content of more than 20 per cent. Dry wood should make a hollow, cracking sound when you bang two pieces together. Wet or green wood is heavier, and will make a dull thud when hit together. Ask your firewood retailer to show you how dry the wood is using their moisture meter.
- If you collect your own wood, it is your responsibility to ensure it is dry before you burn it.
- Split logs dry faster than big logs, so split wood into pieces about 10 to 15cm thick before you store it away.

- Store firewood loosely in a place where it is well ventilated and under cover.
- Never burn rubbish, painted or treated wood in your wood heater as it can produce poisonous gases.

If you have a wood heater it is important to get the fire burning brightly and as hot as possible before loading on larger logs. This will ensure the wood burns properly and minimises smoke pollution.

Air Pollution

Here are some simple steps to make sure you are not polluting our air.

- Always make sure your fire is burning brightly. Start with dry kindling and newspaper with the air control fully open. Once the fire is well established gradually add larger wood pieces, being careful not to choke the fire by overloading it with logs. An efficient fire will have bright swirling flames and red glowing embers with little or no smoke coming from the chimney. It will take practice to get the cleanest burn from your wood heater.
- Use the chimney checker (on back page) to see if your fire is working properly. Remember all wood heaters tend to smoke when first lit, so open the flue and leave the air control on full to allow proper air flow. After 15 to 20 minutes of starting or refueling your fire check the chimney. If your wood heater is working properly your chimney should be almost clear of smoke. If it is smoking too much, open the air flow a little more.
- Do not close the air intake control overnight as this also causes smoke pollution. Let the fire burn out completely overnight - an insulated house will hold in enough heat to keep your house warm until morning.
- Clean your chimney every year. A build-up of soot in your chimney will reduce the fire's efficiency and can cause chimney fires. Check the yellow pages for your local chimney sweep.



- If you are still having trouble with smoke from your wood heater you can possibly solve the problem by increasing the height of your flue. Less smoke means cleaner air!
- Wood heater smoke contains fine particles and toxic chemicals including cancer causing compounds. Any material floating about in the air can be breathed into our bodies. While some of the particles are exhaled, a fraction is retained and these can have adverse impacts on our health. Most at risk are the young, the elderly or those people who suffer from bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, and other lung or heart diseases.
- There is also evidence that fine particle matter can lead to premature deaths. Especially at risk are elderly people who suffer from chronic respiratory problems. Everybody has a responsibility to help keep our air clean. If you can see or smell smoke then you are causing a problem for yourself, your family and your neighbours.

What to do if you have a Smoke Issue

If you are being exposed to smoke from a domestic heater that is being produced from a neighbouring property there are things you can do:

- Talk to your neighbour – in many situations your neighbour may not be aware that the smoke is causing a problem. See if you and your neighbour can work out an amicable solution.
- Provide advice - there is a large amount of information available on the correct use of wood heaters from the internet, Department of Environment website (www.dec.wa.gov.au) and your local Council.