

Joining the woodstove set?

Installation and maintenance key concerns, Committee says

Herald Special
Increasing home heating costs have been sparking renewed interest in wood heating appliances. More and more energy-conscious Canadians

are buying wood stoves and fireplaces to supplement their home heat system, and cut down on their consumption of gas, oil and electricity.
Halton Fire Prevention

Committee commends this swing to alternative heating sources, but expressed concern over the increased possibility of fires. Now that colder weather has arrived,

the Halton fire departments report an increase in the number of fires caused by improper installation, operation or maintenance of wood stoves.

"Proper installation is the key," said firefighter Harold Penson of Milton, 1981 chairman of the Halton Fire Prevention Committee. "Shoddy workmanship and

failure to follow the manufacturer's directions are the two biggest faults," he added.

The committee compiled this check-list for present and future users of wood stoves:

1. Check with the local building department for regulations and obtain a building permit, if necessary.
2. Inform your insurance company you plan to install a wood stove, because an additional premium may be necessary. Your insurance may not cover the loss of a fire if you have not notified your agent.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on installation, clearances required, floor insulation pads and chimneys.
4. Make sure the room where the stove will be located, is well ventilated. Wood stoves consume oxygen and a separate ventilation pipe may be needed to feed the stove.
5. Install only a unit which has been certified by Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).
6. Check your clearances from combustible materials (walls, floors, curtains). A wood burning appliance needs greater clearances than gas, oil and electric systems.
7. Locate your stove away from a hallway, stairwell or fire escape route.
8. An insulated floor pad

9. Get expert advice on whether or not your chimney can handle the higher temperature a wood fire will generate. Chimneys built for gas fires are not sufficient for wood units. Ideally, a wood stove should be connected to its own chimney.
10. Have the building inspector check your installation, before you light your first fire.
11. Use only well-seasoned wood that has been air-dried for at least six months and stored in a dry place, away

12. Chimney fires can be caused by a build-up of creosote and soot which are formed by the incomplete combustion of the fuel. The likelihood of a chimney fire is increased by burning fuel at a higher than normal rate such as when paper, cardboard, Christmas tree branches, plywood or other scrap materials are burned.
13. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, machine or motor oil or manufactured firelogs to start the fire. Kindling, wood chips or newspapers are safest.

More than one way to get burned, BBB warns firewood buyers

Herald Special
A roaring fire in the fireplace can be a warming, romantic touch on a cold winter's day. Under the right conditions, heating a room with wood also can be an energy-saving, economical step to take. But be careful when purchasing firewood, cautions Paul Tuz, president of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto. There's more than one way to get burned!

To get the best deal, but be wary of a drastically low, out-of-line price. Why end up with less wood than bargained for or wood that is too green to burn? Verify that delivery is included in the quote and that there are no other hidden costs.

Understanding the quantity: Most people know that wood is often sold by the "cord", but exactly how much is that? A standard cord is defined as a well-stacked pile of logs, eight feet by four feet by four feet. This is the equivalent of 128 cubic feet of wood and weighs about two tons.

Since few home fireplaces can burn wood that's four by eight feet long, wood is usually sold as a "face cord" or "tier". This is a pile four by eight feet on a side and cut into desired lengths. For

example, a "face cord" of 16-inch pieces is actually one-third of a standard cord. "Be sure to understand which type of cord is being purchased and for what price," Mr. Tuz says.

Keep in mind, too, that although a firewood salesperson may talk about a "rick" of wood, there is no precise meaning to the term. It can mean different amounts, depending on who is selling, so be sure to get more specific with that vendor.

In some areas of the country it is more common to buy firewood by the ton. If so, look for the dried wood available. There's no point in paying for extra water.

Types of Wood: The type of wood is also an important factor. Hardwoods like oak, birch, hickory and maple

burn slowly with a minimum of smoke. By comparison, softwoods are easier to ignite because they are resinous, but they burn more rapidly. Examples of softwood are pine, spruce, fir and other evergreens.

That softwood residue is what creates creosote deposits in a chimney. There is a potential danger that the creosote can ignite, so burning softwoods will require more caution and diligent chimney maintenance.

A third category of wood comes from fruit and nut trees, such as apple, cherry, beech or pecan. These smoke with an aroma that resembles the tree's fruit. The wood often sells at a higher price than hardwoods with greater heating value, but fruit tree woods burn with a steady, pleasant flame.

For the most economical

fire, Mr. Tuz recommends the hardwoods. Otherwise, a combination of the woods types can be worthwhile. Softwood can make the fire start quickly, the hardwood will make it last long and the fruit wood will add a fragrance.

Whichever type of wood purchased, make a point of learning what these woods look like when shopping. It's also important to recognize dry, aged wood, which burns evenly and well. Seasoned wood has cracks in the grain and the hollow, ringing sound produced when two logs are clapped together.

Mr. Tuz strongly suggests to those using fireplaces this winter: keep safety in mind. Be careful when purchasing firewood and when building a fire, and enjoy the many warm days and evenings ahead.

McDonald's Colouring Contest

AUSTRALIA

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NEIGHBOURS New Zealand, New Guinea, Indonesia

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Large older home on mature lot, walking distance to schools, shopping and the "GO" train. Features 4 bedrooms, dining room, den, sun porch, brand new furnace and more. Best of all the vendor will assist in the financing. Call John Clark.

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Newly renovated with broadloom throughout. Large master bedroom plus a 3 year mortgage at 3% below the current bank rates (to a minimum of 15%). Low down payment. Call Tom Robson today.

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Seventy-five percent interest in vacant land that is currently being proposed for an 80-home subdivision right in Georgetown. Call Jim Akers for more information.

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3 bedroom bungalow located in very desirable location with large pie-shaped yard. This home features a large 2 bedroom apartment in the basement suitable for newlyweds in your family or your in-laws. Large first mortgage of \$50,000 at 10 1/2%. Call Jim Akers.

ACTON AREA — ONLY \$48,900
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Gorgeous 3 bedroom brick and aluminum home with central location. There is a nice rec. room plus a large games room, garage, double paved drive and a lovely deck surrounded by a privacy fence. The large windows provide a very pleasant sunny atmosphere. Call Marge Clarke.

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WOODED BEAUTY
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HILLSBURGH HEIRLOOM
Built in 1909 and showing nothing but charm. Even features a snug bachelor apartment. Information and inspection by calling Barb Dunleavy.

EXCELLENT STARTER HOME IN ERIN
2 bedroom home on a water front setting. Finished rec room, broadloom throughout. \$49,900. Call Rosalee Barker.

NO UPKEEPING WITH THE JONES'
This all aluminum home is maintenance free and offers three full baths. Top of the line pool and attractive setting. Get the details from Rosalee Barker.

BRAMPTON — CALEDON AREA
Here is that "Story Book" little farm that you have been looking for! Complete in every respect at \$164,900.00. See it with Bette Stokes.

BELFOUNTAIN — ERIN
This 75 acres has to be the ultimate site to build your castle! It was all reforested in pine and spruce approximately 15 years ago. The Credit River runs thru and along one side of the property. It is something else. Asking \$139,900.00 with terms if desired. Call Barb Dunleavy.

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This five-plex is showing an excellent return and is priced to give you an overall top notch investment. Yes — it is zoned general commercial. Call Bette Stokes.

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