



Charlton & Jenrick<sup>LTD</sup>

*Best of British fires, fireplaces & stoves*

# Wood Burning Stove Users Guide

Choosing Wood | Stove Refueling | Stove Maintenance | Stove Tips



# This Guide Will Cover

- How to choose the right fuel
- What fuel to avoid
- Using Your Stove
- Maintaining Your Stove
- Storing Firewood
- Stove Tips



# Choosing The Right Wood

## The Right Type of Wood

The best fuel for stoves is softwood logs with no more than 20% moisture content for the best burn.

Kiln dried or seasoned work equally as well, but they must be seasoned long enough to achieve low moisture levels.



## Why Dry Wood?

Dry wood produces less smoke and more heat, and so is much cleaner and better for the environment.

Having a too high water percentage will increase pollution, produce a poor level of heat output and cause tar to form in your chimney.

## How To Use a Moisture Meter

Place the prongs into the log and the meter will take an accurate measurement for you and display it on the meter.

You can get a moisture meter from many online retailers, and also at most fire showrooms which supply Charlton & Jenrick stoves.



# Fuels You Shouldn't Use

## House Coal

**Never** burn house coal on closed stoves. It causes severe soot and tar build up, and will not provide a good heat output compared to proper closed stove fuel.

## Smokeless Coal/Briquettes

Whilst some of stoves are able to burn good quality smokeless coal, any type of mineral fuel is far more aggressive than wood and will shorten the life of the internal stove parts.

Sulphur contained in mineral fuels combines with moisture and forms sulphuric acid which attacks metal, ceramic components (including the glass) and flue linings.

Wood logs contain virtually no sulphur and so this type of corrosion does not normally occur with wood.

If you must burn mineral fuels, only use bona-fide approved smokeless fuels and **read the detailed guidance note we put into every stove** very carefully before you do so.

## Painted or Preserved Wood

Never burn painted or preserved wood (such as treated decking).

It is illegal, produces toxic fumes and will cause a build-up of tar and soot, and will cause damage to your stove and flue, or flue liner.

## Newspaper and Card

These will create a lot of smoke and soot, and will not provide good heat output compared to proper closed stove fuel.



# Using Your Stove

## Starting Your Stove

1. Start with a parallel arrangement of large pieces of softwood across the floor of the burning chamber.
2. Stack dry kindling wood into a square shaped tower, alternating between lengthwise and crosswise.
3. Place two low smoke firelighters down the centre of the tower- **do not** use white firelighters.
4. Light the firelighter and leave the door slightly open until the fire is established.



## When The Fire Is Established

Use the air vents to keep the fire burning, dry logs should need little or no under-grate air.

Make sure the flue remains at the right temperature throughout, by making sure the fire is constant.

**Place** the logs into the centre of the fire, away from the rear, sides and glass. This helps keep the glass and liners clean and also enhances the flame picture as the fire is centralised- **Do not throw logs into your Stove.**



Use your stove gloves when operating the door handle, air controls of your stove, and placing logs into the fire. The gloves are designed to protect your hand for long enough to carefully place the log and avoid bumping the back brick.

Use your stove air wash air control slider to keep the stove glass as clear as possible when burning wood.



# Maintaining Your Stove

## Cleaning The Glass on Your Stove

Use a specialist stove glass cleaner or newspaper dipped in vinegar to clean your glass. **Never** use an abrasive cloth or substance to clean the glass.



## Having Your Chimney Swept

You should have your chimney swept on a regular basis during the months it's in use. Having your chimney swept on a regular basis can help reduce acid corrosion.

## Moisture Ingress

Moisture penetrating the fireplace walls, chimney and chimney breast cause a lot of unnecessary corrosion of stoves and flue liners.

Always deal with moisture ingress at its source to maximise the life of your stove and flue linings.

## Clean Your Stove Accessories

It's not all just about your stove. Your various stove accessories also take a bit of bashing during regular use.



# Maintaining Your Stove

## Re-finishing

A stove collects dust and dirt and when under fire gets incredibly hot so paint finishes will not last forever and need restoring from time to time depending on use and fireplace conditions.

Surface rust can appear from condensation and is easily dealt with and the stove returned to a pristine condition. Re-finishing is often done at the end of the heating season so the stove looks its best through the summer months.

Simply rub down the affected areas with fine wet and dry paper or wire wool to remove old paint and surface rust. Include the fuel retainer in the firebox.

Now mask off the glass and put newspaper over hearth and surround and re-finish with surface with either stove spray paint or an iron grate blacking paste to suit your preference.



# Storing Firewood

## How Much Do I Need?

If you are going to use your stove on most evenings and at weekends from October to April, then 3 to 4 cubic meters per year is typical for most UK households.

## If You Are Cutting Your Own Firewood

If so you will need a good amount of space. Many people who season their own wood typically have 6 to 8 cubic meters of space, where the wood is seasoned over 2+ years.



## Storing Your Firewood

You should store wood in a well vented, dry area that is away from the rain, this is because rain will eventually rot the wood.

You should always stack your firewood because this will help promote air to circulate.

You must avoid storing firewood on a soil floor if outside, as the soil will rot the wood.

If you're cutting your own logs for firewood, store them in a dry area, and allow them to dry for at least 12 months, for wood like oak, this can be as long as 24 months.





# Stove Tips

## Fire Safety

For maximum safety always fit a CO (Carbon Monoxide) detector in the same room as a solid fuel combustion appliance of any kind.

## Temperature Levels

Use a stove pipe thermometer to monitor the approximate temperature levels in the flue pipe. This can help to get optimum flue temperatures more quickly and reduce tar, condensation and soot formation in the chimney.



## Firelighters

Use wood “wool” and wax firelighters instead of the white chemical ones – they do not smell, produce much less soot and smoke, and are far more likely to light the fire successfully using just one.

## Chopping Logs

It's useful to cut logs into different sizes, to ensure you have a variety to fit in your stove, and the most efficient choice available.



These can range from larger logs, which can burn for a long while, to smaller ones, which can be ideal when you only need heat to be produced for a shorter time.