

A Northwest Tradition

Heating with wood is a common practice for many people living in the northwest. But wood smoke can threaten the health of our families and our communities.

Wood smoke is a complex mixture of fine particles, many of which are toxic and known to cause cancer. Breathing wood smoke can cause serious health problems, especially for children whose developing lungs are small and vulnerable, and for people with asthma, heart disease or other respiratory illnesses.

During the colder months, especially at night and on weekends, wood smoke can account for up to 80% of the air pollution in residential areas in the Spokane region.

If you heat with wood, please do your part and help everyone breathe a little easier this winter. Please burn responsibly.



Since 1969, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency has been working to ensure clean, healthy air for current and future generations. We provide the following programs and services:

- Air Pollution Complaint Response and Enforcement
- Air Quality Monitoring and Forecasting
- Business Permitting and Assistance
- Education & Enforcement Activities related to:
 - Asbestos - renovation/demolition projects
 - Outdoor Burning, Wood Heating

For more information please contact us:

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
 3104 E. Augusta Avenue, Spokane, WA 99207
 Phone: (509) 477-4727
 Burn Ban Status: (509) 477-4710
www.SpokaneCleanAir.org

reprint: November 2017

Wood Heat

*A guide
to better
burning for
cleaner air*



Stay Warm, Burn Smart

Five easy steps for cleaner burning

1. Burn only dry, clean, untreated wood or manufactured logs/pellets - It is illegal to burn anything else. Paper is legal only for starting a fire. Firewood should be split, stacked and loosely covered for nine months to a year before burning.



2. Give your fire plenty of air
- Be sure not to

overload the stove or damper it down. Small, hot fires burn cleaner, produce more heat, and use less wood. Restricting air to your fire can lead to excessive smoke, which is prohibited under state law.

3. Look at your chimney - Lots of smoke means your fire needs air and is building up creosote in your chimney. Creosote build-up can lead to dangerous chimney fires. An efficient fire emits heat waves or just a wisp of smoke.

4. Check current burning conditions - If weather conditions are stagnant and wood smoke is increasing, a burn restriction may be issued. Before you light, call the 24-hour Burn Ban Status at 477-4710, or visit www.SpokaneCleanAir.org.

5. Consider an upgrade - New technology stoves and inserts are significantly cleaner and more energy efficient, burning much less wood for the same amount of heat. Gas stoves and inserts are cleaner options to consider.

Washington's

Wood Smoke Laws

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency enforces the following wood smoke laws, which are designed to protect public health and our communities:

Chimney smoke - State law limits the density of chimney smoke. (see next panel)

Burn Bans - Burn bans are called when fine particles of smoke become concentrated and are not readily dispersing due to stagnant air. The type of burn ban depends on the level of air pollution.



■ **Stage 1 Burn Ban (yellow)** - Burning is not allowed unless it is in an EPA-certified device. A label should be on your device indicating certification. Most EPA-certified devices are 1995 or newer. Check the paperwork that came with your device or look at the list at www.SpokaneCleanAir.org

■ **Stage 2 Burn Ban (red)** - Burning is not allowed in any wood stove, fireplace or pellet stove. Households with no other adequate source of heat may apply for an exemption. Contact Spokane Clean Air for details.

Purchasing and installing wood burning devices - Any wood burning device offered for sale, sold, given away, or installed in Washington must meet the state's emissions standards of 4.5 grams/hour for non-catalytic and 2.5 grams/hour for catalytic devices.

Before selling, purchasing or installing a wood burning device, check with Spokane Clean Air. A permit and inspection is required for installation. Call your city or county building department for details.

Chimney Smoke

Excessive smoke is prohibited

Smoke density is referred to as opacity. State and local regulations limit the density of chimney smoke to 20% opacity. No visible smoke is 0% opacity, and smoke so thick you can't see through it is 100% opacity. At 20% opacity, smoke is barely visible. Inspectors with Spokane Clean Air follow-up on numerous smoke complaints. If excessive smoke is observed, you may be fined.



20% Opacity - legal maximum



40% Opacity - illegal