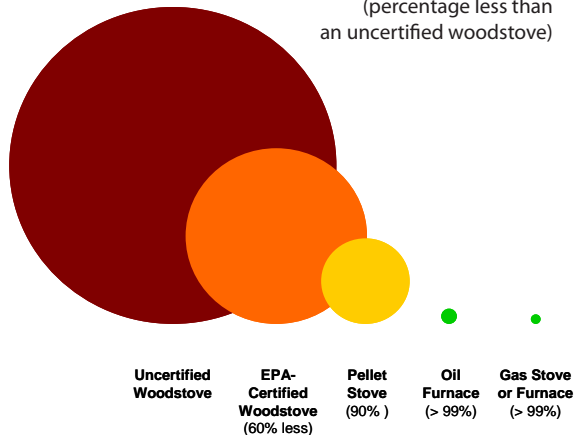


Fine particle pollution poses serious health risks

Of the six criteria air pollutants monitored in the Puget Sound area, fine particles are associated with the most serious health effects. The tiny size of these pollutants allows them to be easily inhaled, bypassing the immune system and proceeding deep into your lungs, where they can cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems, including premature death. Children, older adults and people with heart and lung illnesses are especially at risk and should avoid outdoor exertion if fine particle levels are high.

Fine particle levels in the Puget Sound region regularly exceed the health goal established by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's Board of Directors, and periodically exceed the federal air quality standard. That's why achieving further reductions in fine particles is one of the agency's top priorities to protect public health.

Annual Fine Particle Pollution (PM2.5) from heating a Northwest home
(percentage less than an uncertified woodstove)



Note: Although open-hearth fireplaces are a significant source of fine particle pollution (even more than wood stove fires), they are not included in the above diagram because this diagram compares emissions based on equivalent heat output, and fireplaces are not actually a heat source for a residence. Homeowners will often find their house growing colder while a fire is burning in an open fireplace because warm air from the home is being drawn up the chimney.

Burn Wise

To help minimize smoke, burn small, hot fires and give the fire plenty of air. Check your chimney occasionally: If you see smoke coming out, you are not burning hot enough and are wasting fuel. Let your fire have more air, and check your chimney again.

For more tips, visit www.epa.gov/burnwise



For more information or to file a wood smoke complaint:

Visit us online at www.pscleanair.org, or call 206.343.8800 or 800.552.3565

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is an air quality management agency serving King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Created as a result of the 1967 Washington Clean Air Act, the agency protects public health and improves air quality by adopting and enforcing air quality regulations, educating individuals and businesses about clean-air choices and sponsoring voluntary initiatives to improve air quality.

✓ Recycled paper ✓ EnergyStar equipment

Pub. No. 30-8 Rev. 10.19.11 RW

What you see...



...is what you breathe

Wood burning, the law and your health

Smoke from burning wood in fireplaces and wood stoves contains fine particle pollution, which is one of the most serious air quality challenges in the Puget Sound region.

In wintertime, up to 80 percent of the fine particle pollution in residential neighborhoods comes from chimney smoke.

If you burn wood, you have legal responsibilities

Under Washington state law, the following regulations apply to those who heat with wood:

- ◆ Burn only manufactured logs or dry, seasoned firewood. It is illegal to burn anything else.
- ◆ Observe burn bans. To protect public health, state law requires local air agencies to issue burn bans when stagnant weather conditions lead to elevated pollution levels.
 - During a Stage I burn ban it is unlawful to use your fireplace or uncertified wood stove, unless it is your only adequate source of heat. Stage I burn bans also prohibit all outdoor burning.
 - It is also illegal to generate visible smoke from your wood stove or fireplace, even if your wood stove is certified or your only adequate source of heat.
 - If pollution levels continue to climb, the agency may call a Stage II burn ban, during which it is unlawful to use even certified wood stoves and pellet stoves, unless it is your only source of heat.

Be among the first to know when a burn ban is issued or cancelled. Sign up for e-mail notification at pscleanair.org/signup

Or, call our toll-free Burn Ban Hotline at:

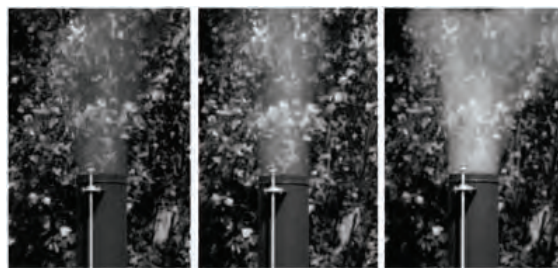
(800) 595-4341

- ◆ Don't buy, sell, exchange or give away uncertified devices — it's illegal. Wood stoves, fireplaces and other solid-fuel burning devices

sold in Washington must be certified to meet Washington state emission standards. If you have an uncertified wood stove, we strongly recommend you replace it with a cleaner-heating, more efficient alternative.

- ◆ Watch your chimney smoke. Generating excess chimney smoke is not only un-neighborly, it's illegal. Under state regulations, smoke from your chimney cannot exceed 20-percent opacity for six or more consecutive minutes. Greater smoke densities could result in fines.

How much smoke is legal? (opacity)



20% or less = legal

40% illegal

80% illegal

Ready to switch? Consider cleaner alternatives

Different fuel choices come with an array of environmental, economical and health considerations. Here is an overview of some of the various hearth options to help you make the best choice for your home or business.

Electric fireplaces



- ☑ Emit zero pollution.
- ☑ Provide the ambience of a wood fire — without the smoke.
- ☑ Easy to use — switch on, switch off.
- ☑ OK to use during both Stage I and Stage II burn bans.

Natural gas or propane fireplaces and stoves



- ☑ The cleanest non-electric heating choice.
- ☑ Provide the ambience of a wood fire — without the smoke.
- ☑ Easy to use — switch on, switch off, even when the power is out.
- ☑ OK to use during both Stage I and Stage II burn bans.

Pellet stoves



- ☑ Emit significantly less pollution than wood fires.
- ☑ Efficient. One pack of pellets provides several hours of steady heat.
- ☑ OK to use during Stage I burn bans.
- ☒ **Cannot be used during Stage II burn bans**

Manufactured logs



- ☑ Cleaner than wood. Manufactured logs produce up to 70 percent less air pollution than wood and less creosote buildup in your fireplace.
- ☑ Efficient. One fireplace log burns two to four hours, depending on the type. Some logs manufactured for use in wood stoves can burn up to 12 hours.
- ☒ **Cannot be used in fireplaces or uncertified wood stoves during a Stage I burn ban.**
- ☒ **Cannot be used in any device during a Stage II burn ban.**