

## Domestic Wood Burners Guidance

Wood burners are a popular home heating choice but are significantly more polluting than low-carbon alternatives such as heat pumps. A wood burner produces approximately 5.36 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, whereas a heat pump emits only 0.7 tonnes per year, equivalent to seven times more carbon than a heat pump annually.<sup>[1]</sup> Wood burners also emit particulate matter (PM), including PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>0.1</sub>.

If you're thinking of installing a wood burner in your home, we would encourage you to consider the following:

- You can install and use a wood burner, provided you comply with all national and local regulations, including smoke control area rules<sup>[2]</sup> and appliance standards.
- We recommend that you install a highly efficient, 'Ecodesign-compliant' or 'Defra-approved' wood burner. Modern closed appliances are considerably more efficient and less polluting than open fires.
- We recommend that you only use authorised fuels or those recommended by the appliance manufacturer and prioritise sustainable, locally sourced well-managed, certified sources, wood fuels - preferably wood pellets or briquettes made from by-products of managed, certified, forestry operations.
- Where possible use Smokeless Logs which are a type of fuel that produces minimal smoke during combustion. This action would be considerate to your neighbours and could help prevent smoke complaints from arising.
- We would encourage you to consider installing a low-emission alternatives such as heat pumps with significantly lower pollution, higher efficiency, and lower operational costs.

If you already have a wood burner in your home, here are some ways that you can keep you and your family safe:

- Regularly clean and inspect your wood burner to ensure it operates safely and efficiently.
- Only burn dry, seasoned wood or recommended fuels to minimize harmful smoke and creosote buildup.
- Use the wood burner during well-ventilated periods and avoid overnight burning to reduce indoor pollution risks.
- Place a carbon monoxide alarm near the wood burner to detect dangerous gas levels and protect your family from poisoning.