INFORMATION SHEET

WOOD BURNING TECHNIQUE ON CENTRAL HEATING STOVES AND BOILERS

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PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT INFORMATION IN THIS SHEET APPLIES TO CENTRAL HEATING APPLIANCES ONLY, IT DOES NOT APPLY TO SPACE HEATING, DRY WOOD BURNING APPLIANCES.

1. ABOUT WOOD FUEL

2-1 DO I KNOW HOW MUCH WOOD I WILL NEED TO BURN?

Roughly 1 lb of wood equals 1Kw of energy; therefore if you need 30Kw of energy per hour you are going to have to burn about 30 lbs of wood per hour.

Pine and Oak have different density therefore a tonne of Pine will take up substantially more volume than a tonne of Oak.

If you work out how many Kilowatt hours are required to keep your property warm then you should be able to work out the weight of wood required for a seasons heating and purchase it accordingly.

2-2 DO I HAVE A RELIABLE AND PROVEN SUPPLIER OF WOOD AND DO I KNOW THE COST? Once you have established your seasons requirement you can order your supplies from a local, approved, wood fuel supplier.

Remember after Jan 1 2022 all wood fuel suppliers will have to be registered under new EU legislation, to be able to sell wood fuel at max MC of 15%, to the general public.

2-3 DO I KNOW HOW TO STORE THE WOOD?

Your wood fuel supplier will advise on methods of storage.

2-4 EQUIPMENT TO HELP ME GET THE BEST FROM MY WOOD BURNING APPLIANCE Two pieces of equipment will help here:-

- Q. How do I know that the wood fuel is at the correct moisture content for burning?
- A. A moisture meter will tell you what the moisture content of your wood is.
- Q. How do I know if I am burning the wood at the correct temperature?
- A. A stove top thermometer will tell you what temperature your appliance is running at.

Both of these pieces of essential equipment are readily available from us.

2. CORRECT USE OF APPLIANCE WHEN USING WOOD FUEL

For anyone interested in wood burning, the following text will provide some guidance and useful information.

If you are in any doubt as to the soundness of your chimney, call us and we will be pleased to advise you.

2-1 GOOD WOODBURNING TECHNIQUE

If wood is burned at high temperatures a more complete combustion occurs displayed as long yellow flame combustion and hardly any smoke will be emitted from the chimney terminal.

- 1. Increases the efficiency of the burn process and decreases your running costs.
- 2. Increases the life expectancy of the boiler results in a cleaner appliance and chimney.
- 3. Stops smoking chimneys.

2-2 BAD WOOD BURNING TECHNIQUE

Wood cannot be burned at low temperatures, if the appliance is emitting smoke from the chimney terminal this is a sure sign that the appliance is not burning the wood fuel at a high enough temperature resulting in wood tar deposits all over the internals of the firebox, flue ways, door glass, chimney liner and its terminal..

2-3 LOADING AND RUNNING AN APPLIANCE

The fire is ignited as per normal convention.

Remember that on the initial light up of appliances with boilers, <u>large amounts</u> of water may run from the appliance, this is quite normal and caused by massive condensation due to the fact that the boiler is cold and the newly established fire is hot.

After some use a layer of light soot will build up on the internal boiler surfaces and condensation problems will gradually diminish.

When the fire is established, build it up slowly by adding a small quantity of wood, take care not to put too much wood on at once otherwise this will :-

- 1. Kill the fire, reduce the firebox temperature and create smoke from the chimney.
- 2. Cause tarring and condensation in the appliance, flue ways, liner and chimney terminal. Remember:-

Get the combustion chamber up to a high temperature with plenty of blue and yellow flames. As the wood fuel burns away, it slowly decomposes leaving a light grey coloured ash.

As is the case with all fires, if it is allowed to die down too much, it will not be possible to recover it.

Try to keep topping the firebox up regularly but do not overload it so as to kill the temperature. Remember for overnight burning it is better to use smokeless fuel.

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