

## Reduce smoke from your wood heater

### Don't burn rubbish or painted or treated wood.

Never burn household rubbish, driftwood or painted wood. Most old painted wood is likely to contain lead-based paint, and when burnt can produce poisonous gases.

### Check your wood is dry by tapping it with a coin.

Dry wood makes a sharp resonant sound, wet wood makes a dull sound. Freshly cut wood needs to be stored under cover in a dry, ventilated area for eight to twelve months before use. Green or unseasoned wood contains up to 70% water, which causes smoke, not heat and costs you money.

### Make sure your fire has enough air.

Open the air controls fully for 5 minutes before and 15 to 20 minutes after loading the heater. Stack wood loosely in your firebox, so plenty of air circulates around it. That way your fire will burn hot and efficiently, rather than smoulder, which causes smoke and air pollution.

### Don't let your fire smoulder overnight.

In winter, the highest concentrations of fine particles in the air occur after midnight caused by smouldering heaters overnight.

### Get your flue checked and cleaned at least once a year by a professional.

## Save money by making sure your home retains the heat you put into it

Before installing a new heating system, you need to ensure your home retains the heat you put into it. Put together a heating package including:

- Insulating ceilings, walls and floors where possible
- Sealing off draughts
- Effective window coverings
- Zoning living and sleeping areas
- Choose an appropriate heating system for your home and use it wisely and efficiently.

## WOOD SMOKE ISN'T GOOD SMOKE

For more information visit [epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke](http://epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke)

To report a pollution incident call the Environment Line on 131 555

Alternatively contact Dubbo Regional Council

 6801 4000  [dubbo.nsw.gov.au](http://dubbo.nsw.gov.au)

 Corner Church and Darling Streets, Dubbo

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# IF YOU CAN SMELL IT YOU'RE ALREADY BREATHING IT.

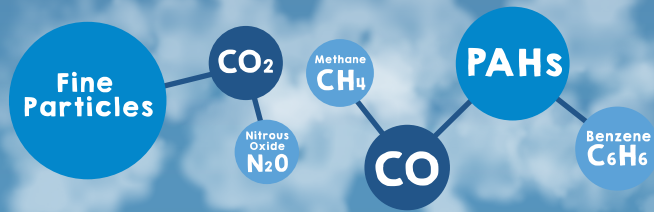


## WOOD SMOKE ISN'T GOOD SMOKE



# What is wood smoke?

Wood smoke is produced from burning solid fuel in a wood heater or open fireplace. Wood is a natural material, but when it's burned, it produces harmful particle pollution and noxious gases, which go deep into the lungs.



# What's the problem?

Smoke from wood heaters is a major cause of air pollution. In many areas in NSW in winter wood smoke contributes more than 60% of fine particle pollution.



# Who is most affected?

Wood smoke pollution affects everyone. Even in small amounts, wood smoke pollutants can be harmful especially to the young, frail or elderly.

## What can you do to protect yourself?

- Avoid outdoor physical activities
- Stay indoors with windows and external doors closed
- If you suffer from heart or lung disease and you notice symptoms of smoke exposure, take your regular medications, rest and seek medical advice if symptoms persist.



# Check your chimney

Compare the smoke coming from your chimney with these photos.

If your fire is too smoky, read on to find out ways to reduce smoke from your wood heater.



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YOU'RE ALREADY  
BREATHING IT**