



# Wood Burning Smoke

## Did you know?

*Smoke created by burning wood contains gases and particles that can harm your health when you breathe them.*

## Action Plan

- Burning wood can be an effective way to heat our homes or an important part of a ceremonial or recreational experience.
- There are steps you can take to reduce smoke exposure when burning wood:
  - Burn only dry, seasoned wood that has been split and aged for at least 6 months.
  - Use a wood moisture meter to make sure wood is dry enough to burn (less than 20% moisture).
  - Store wood off the ground in a dry, covered area such as a woodshed.
  - Don't allow fires to smolder.
  - Never burn trash, plastic, particle board, pressure-treated wood, or other household items and building materials.
  - Consider installing an EPA-certified wood burning stove.
- Keep children away from wood smoke, particularly if they have asthma or are prone to respiratory illnesses.
- Have chimneys inspected every year and cleaned and repaired when recommended.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and keep a fire extinguisher handy.

[more](#) →

## Resources

For more information on safer wood burning practices visit [epa.gov/burnwise](https://www.epa.gov/burnwise).

For more strategies to improve your indoor air quality visit [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov) and search "Indoor Air Quality."

To find a certified chimney cleaner visit [csia.org](https://www.csia.org) or [ncsg.org](https://www.ncsg.org).

For more information on choosing and using fire extinguishers visit [nfpa.org/Public-Education](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education), click "Staying safe" and select "Safety equipment." Select "fire extinguishers."

For more resources on staying safe and warm in cold weather, visit [nyscheck.org/rx](https://www.nyscheck.org/rx) and click on "Cold Weather Safety."

For more information, visit [nyscheck.org/rx](https://www.nyscheck.org/rx)

