



Smoke from Wood-Burning

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.
- ☐ Burning wet wood is less efficient than burning dry wood. Wet wood also causes more air pollution indoors.
- ☐ Children spending lots of time indoors, and people with asthma and other lung problems, face more health risks from wood smoke.
- ☐ 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.

[more](#) →



- Consider installing an EPA-certified wood burning stove.
- Have chimneys inspected every year and cleaned and repaired when recommended.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and keep a fire extinguisher handy.

Resources

For more information on safer wood burning practices visit epa.gov/burnwise.

For more strategies to improve your indoor air quality visit epa.gov and search "Indoor Air Quality."

To find a certified chimney cleaner visit csia.org or ncsg.org.

For more information on choosing and using fire extinguishers visit 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 and click on "Cold Weather Safety."

For more information, visit nyscheck.org/rxs



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