



HOME OWNERS SAFETY MANUAL and BURNING GUIDE FOR MASONRY HEATERS

Before using your masonry heater, please read these instructions carefully - failure to do so may bring about potentially hazardous conditions. Points you should know when using your masonry heater.

- A. USE ONLY WITH DOOR CLOSED.
- B. DO NOT USE A GRATE OR ANDIRONS.
- C. IN NEW MASONRY HEATERS THE ENTIRE CHIMNEY INSTALLATION SHOULD BE INSPECTED REGULARLY (ON A MONTHLY BASIS) UNTIL A CLEANING CYCLE IS DETERMINED.
- D. WHEN CLEANING A CLASS 'A' METAL CHIMNEY USE A POLY OR NYLON TYPE BRUSH. DO NOT USE A METAL BRUSH.
- E. FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS MUST NOT BE USED TO START FIRES.
- F. WHEN CLEANING THE ASHES OUT OF YOUR MASONRY HEATER, BE SURE AND USE A METAL CONTAINER FOR ASHES AS AN ADDED SAFETY MEASURE. DO NOT STORE ASHES ON COMBUSTIBLE SURFACE.
- G. MAINTENANCE AND SAFE OPERATIONS ARE THE HOMEOWNERS RESPONSIBILITY.
- H. INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS AND CO. DETECTORS FOR ADDED PROTECTION.

WARNING:

Before starting the fire, check damper for proper position. On masonry heaters where there is no damper, but an airtight fire door to stop air flow, do not close this type of door until the wood is totally burned and only glowing embers remain. No flames should be visible. Once the airtight (damper) door is closed it should remain closed until the next firing at least 6 hours later (minimum). If this procedure is not followed, a gas explosion can occur, resulting in expensive rebuilding of the heater and possible personal injury. Some masonry heaters have this type of damper/door. If your masonry heater has a combustion air control, never close before fuel is totally consumed.

NOTE: You could help the drying out process by using an electric fan or heater directed into the firebox starting 2 or 3 days after the masonry heater is installed. Leave the damper open fully during dry out and curing/break in period.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wait at least 30 days to start using your new masonry heater, unless your installer specifies otherwise. You should have 8 to 10 small fires to cure and slowly dry out any moisture present. (This precaution should be taken annually at the start of every heating season).

WARNING: DO NOT EXCEED 10 PERCENT OF FULL LOAD (as specified by manufacturer) ON THE FIRST 8 TO 10 FIRES. Then increase load by 5 percent on each of the next 8 fires. On the next fires, increase each by 10 percent until you reach the 100 percent maximum that

the masonry heater was designed for. If during this break-in period you notice moisture (damp areas on surface or sweat appearing in mortar joints) skip 1 or 2 fires to avoid a steam explosion. You should not feel any heat on the surface during the first 12 to 15 fires. If you do, you may be over firing.

NOTE: First open the damper. It is not a bad idea to check draft with a single match held at the lintel. If it is drafting into the room, turn off any fans or open a window or door for a brief time. When chimney is drafting up properly, there should be no smoke back or spillage problems. On outside chimneys or new masonry heaters with first startup fires, it may be necessary to heat the flue via the cleanout at the chimney base. Some basement masonry heaters may have a bypass damper, which should be open for start up to preheat flue and enhance draft.

2. **After the break-in period, try a top down burn.** (A clean burn start up procedure – yes, just the opposite of what we are used to.)

Place one piece of wood approximately 2” x 2” in diameter on bottom parallel to door.

Criss cross three pieces of wood approximately 4” to 5” in diameter on top of the first piece (log cabin style). See Section 4 for Tee Pee Style (with grain end facing door).

Lay two pieces approximately 3” to 4” in diameter on top of the second layer, but parallel to the first layer. This will be approximately 20 to 26 pounds of base wood (assuming a medium to large heater).

Next, crumple two or three pages of newspaper and place on top of third layer. Using 3 to 4 pounds of small ½” to 1” in diameter kindling, criss cross the kindling on top of paper fairly close together allowing enough room for air flow (log cabin style).

Using one full page of newspaper, make a torch approximately 23” to 28” long. Light torch and hold up flue. This will enhance the draft. When the torch burns down, use it as the match to start the fire.

You will also find that wood laid criss cross will produce more heat than layered wood placed parallel to one another.

3. After the first start up phase, larger wood may be used keeping in mind the criss cross (log cabin style) gives more heat. Maximum wood size recommended is 6” to 7” in diameter. All wood should have one or more split sides (no rounds).
4. On smaller fireboxes, anything less than 18” x 18”, a Tee Pee style fire works best. Stand wood on end using smaller pieces – i.e. cut log cabin style wood as described above into 1/2 or 1/3 of its size. Stand wood in rear of firebox and kindle the front and top for best results. See MFG/builder specifics for maximum fuel load usually 12 to 20 pounds.
5. Your masonry heater will burn virtually creosote free when using well seasoned (15 to 20 percent) dry wood of proper size. Only through your own neglect will you ever experience creosote buildup. If you discover creosote in your flue, immediately cease to use your present fuel. Have your chimney cleaned if heavy deposit has resulted and then use only well seasoned dry wood. For your own safety, remember only you can prevent a hazardous situation from developing.

DO NOT RELOAD IF MORE HEAT IS NEEDED IN A 24-HOUR CYCLE. WAIT 8 TO 12 HOURS THEN HAVE A SECOND FIRE, OR 3 FIRES IN A DAY – ONE EVERY 8 HOURS.

6. Remember to clean and inspect your heater annually (minimum) as well as the flue. It is recommended that you have a chimney cap installed for rain and snow protection. It is recommended that when not in use you leave the damper in the open position (or remove is possible) as not to freeze (rust) closed. Also, remove all ashes at the end of the heating season as they draw dampness that is harmful to the metal and masonry parts, and may cause an undesirable odor.

If you have questions – consult with your manufacturer/builder.

WARNING – SPECIAL NOTE:

**YOUR WARRANTY WILL BE VOID IF YOU USE YOUR NEW HEATER TO
DRY OUT AN UNFINISHED NEW HOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

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