



Best Practices for Wood Heating

Few things in life are more enjoyable than a wood fire. Modern solid fuel (wood) appliances are safe, efficient, and reliable – but proper installation, operation, and monitoring are essential to reduce emissions. Members of the HPBAC have compiled these best practices to help Canadians use their wood heating appliances safely and effectively.

Use a specialty retailer and qualified installer.

There are countless choices in size, style, and budget, and specialty retailers can advise on the right option for your home. A professional installation will meet the manufacturer’s instructions, building codes, CSA standards, and local bylaws.

Choose the right appliance size.

A properly sized unit will operate efficiently and safely.

Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Different appliances have different requirements, so it is important to consult the owner’s manual. Proper operation and maintenance ensure safety and performance. Some best practices that apply to all wood heating appliances:

- ▶ Maintain clearances
- ▶ Ensure adequate air supply and ventilation
- ▶ Regular inspection and maintenance by a certified chimney sweep
- ▶ Use proper ignition techniques
- ▶ Follow correct loading practices

Use the correct fuel.

Use only the fuels recommended by the manufacturer:

- ▶ Seasoned, dry firewood for wood appliances
- ▶ Certified pellets for pellet appliances

Never burn treated wood or household waste.

Store fuel properly.

- ▶ Store firewood split, well-ventilated, and covered on top outdoors; seasoning time varies by species.
- ▶ Store pellets in a clean, dry place.

Dispose of ashes safely.

Place ashes in a metal container with a tight lid and store outdoors on a non-combustible surface. Ashes can stay hot for days.

Stay informed and prepared.

Review your manual, keep maintenance records, and contact a professional if you notice performance changes.



For more information:

Consult the HPBAC website at hpbacanada.org or by scanning the QR code.



Find a specialty retailer:

Visit the HPBAC online directory at hpbac.org/find-a-member.

