

Wood Heating Checklist



How are you using your wood heater? Tick the boxes that mostly describe your situation.

Do you:	A	B	C
1 Burn seasoned and/or dry wood (when striking two pieces of wood together dry wood makes a 'crack', wet wood makes a dull thud)	<input type="checkbox"/> all of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> none of the time
2 Burn treated and/or painted wood	<input type="checkbox"/> none of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> most of the time
3 Burn household rubbish (eg plastic or nappies)	<input type="checkbox"/> none of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> most of the time
4 Use dry kindling, paper and/or firelighters for starting fires	<input type="checkbox"/> all of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> some of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> none of the time
5 Keep fire burning	<input type="checkbox"/> with large bright flames, not smouldering	<input type="checkbox"/> with a moderate flame, some smouldering	<input type="checkbox"/> with little or no flame
6 Keep wood supply	<input type="checkbox"/> under shelter in a criss-cross pattern	<input type="checkbox"/> under shelter in any fashion	<input type="checkbox"/> without shelter or covered with plastic
7 Burn	<input type="checkbox"/> hardwoods (eg redgum, mallee)	<input type="checkbox"/> a combination of hardwood and softwood	<input type="checkbox"/> softwoods (eg pine)
8 Have heater and flue inspected and cleaned to remove tar and soot build-up	<input type="checkbox"/> once a year	<input type="checkbox"/> once every 2–3 years	<input type="checkbox"/> once every 4 years or greater
9 Check the condition of your heater's door seal	<input type="checkbox"/> once a year	<input type="checkbox"/> once every 2–3 years	<input type="checkbox"/> once every 4 years or greater
10 Leave air controls	<input type="checkbox"/> fully open for 20–30 minutes when starting fire	<input type="checkbox"/> fully open for less than 20 minutes when starting fire	<input type="checkbox"/> fully open more than 30 minutes after starting
11 Leave fire-box door	<input type="checkbox"/> closed, except when starting	<input type="checkbox"/> closed most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/> open most of the time
12 Check externally for smoke from your flue	<input type="checkbox"/> occasionally 20 minutes after starting up, and adjust controls, burning, and wood until there is little or no smoke	<input type="checkbox"/> check externally, and if smoke is present try to avoid excess smoke next time wood heater is lit	<input type="checkbox"/> do nothing after checking externally for smoke, or don't check externally for smoke

Total number of ticks:

A ()

B ()

C ()

This checklist is provided with scoring instructions as a guide to assist and encourage improved use of woodheaters.



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Checklist scoring:

No. of ticks

Column A () x 2 =

Column B () x 1 =

Column C () x 0 =

TOTAL

Scoring

17–24 Good woodheater use. Keep up the good work!

Continue your woodheating practices, especially for any questions answered with an 'A'. Refer to this checklist before next winter season to make sure you continue to use your woodheater efficiently and reduce wood smoke.

9–16 Poor woodheater use. Changes needed

Changes to woodheater use are needed. Make a plan to take steps listed in column 'A'. Check there is no smoke coming from your flue after lighting the fire and adjust your woodheater accordingly. Visit the website below for more information on how you can use your woodheater more efficiently.

0–8 Very poor woodheater use. Improvement urgently needed!

Improvement in woodheater use is urgently required. Using your wood heater more efficiently can save you money, reduce your impact on wood smoke pollution and risk of potential health impacts associated with wood smoke. For any questions answered with a 'B' or a 'C' circle the question and answer 'A' and make an effort to take the circled steps. Redo this checklist in a month and see if your score has improved.

The Woodheating Challenge

- Burn only dry and seasoned wood in my woodheater.
- Keep the fire live and bright, and let it go out at night.
- Keep air vents open for 20 minutes after lighting the fire.
- Regularly check to ensure there is no smoke from my flue 20 minutes after lighting the fire.



For more information please contact the EPA on (08) 8204 2004
or visit: www.epa.sa.gov.au/woodsmoke