

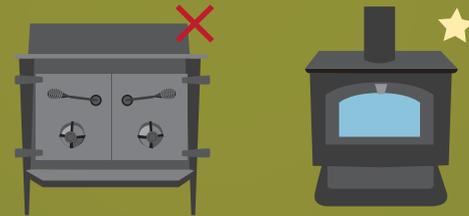
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## RIGHT WOOD, RIGHT WAY, RIGHT STOVE

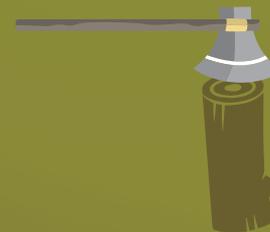
BURN WISE AND BREATHE EASY  
WHEN YOU BUY THE RIGHT STOVE  
FOR YOUR HOME.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
CHANGING OUT YOUR OLD STOVE,  
AND DISCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL  
HELP THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE,  
VISIT [BURNWISE.ALASKA.GOV](http://BURNWISE.ALASKA.GOV).

# HEATING FOR HEALTH AND EFFICIENCY



*How to buy the right wood  
stove for your home.*



## REPLACING YOUR OLD STOVE

Your old wood stove may have a dirty little secret. Do you smell smoke in the house, or notice smoke coming from the chimney? Is there more dust around the house when you use the wood stove? Do you get watery eyes and a stuffy nose when you're using the wood stove? Do you have to constantly feed the stove with wood? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to consider replacing your wood stove.



## PLANNING YOUR WOOD STOVE PURCHASE

Since 1988, EPA has required manufacturers of wood stoves to certify that they comply with the EPA particulate emissions guidelines in the Clean Air Act. If your wood stove has a solid metal door, it probably pre-dates this law and it is time to replace it with a more modern, cleaner burning option. These stoves will not have an EPA certification tag. The best way to find the right size and model of wood stove is by working with a professional dealer or heating contractor, and to get recommendations from chimney sweeps. A professional dealer can help you pick the model that is best for your home and heating needs and will give you a list of certified wood heaters that includes the manufacturer and model name, its emission rate, heat output and efficiency.

## BE PREPARED



Take a floor plan of your home to the dealer along with the square footage of the room the stove will be located in, the area you want the stove to heat and the adjacent rooms. Wood stoves come in different sizes and can be sized to heat a single room or an entire home. A stove that is too large or small for the space to be heated will be inefficient, create more pollution and will leave the temperature uncomfortable. Generally speaking, small stoves are sufficient for heating a family room or seasonal cottage. Medium stoves work best for heating small houses, medium size energy efficient homes, and cottages that are used in the winter. Large stoves are needed for bigger, open plan houses or older homes in colder climates. Also consider how weatherized your home is. Is it a newer home with high ceilings, double paned windows and modern insulation guidelines? Or is it older and drafty? The better insulated your home, the smaller the wood heating device required, plus it will take less wood/pellets to keep your home comfortable during the winter.

#1  
CLEAN  
AIR

## EPA CERTIFIED WOOD STOVES

EPA certified wood stoves are cleaner and more efficient than a wood stove manufactured before 1988. As part of the certification process, each wood stove model line is required to undergo emissions testing in accordance with EPA regulations and cannot be offered for sale until these tests are passed.

Always look for the EPA white label on the stove, indicating that the stove meets the EPA standards for certification. The most common type of stove for meeting EPA smoke emission limits is the non-catalytic style, which has three internal characteristics that create a good environment for complete combustion—firebox insulation, a large baffle to produce a longer, hotter gas flow path and pre-heated combustion air.

Catalytic is the other type of stove and is slightly more complicated to operate and requires more maintenance for operating at peak performance, but will hold a hotter fire longer than a non-catalytic stove. With this type of combustion, the smoky exhaust is passed through a honeycomb catalyst inside the stove where the smoke gases and particles ignite and burn before the exhaust leaves through the chimney.



## DESIGN, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Four things make a stove clean burning: design, installation, operation and proper maintenance. EPA laws ensure that stoves burn cleanly in the test lab, but it is up to you to install and operate your new stove so that it burns cleanly and efficiently. Follow your owner's manual when installing it yourself and consult an expert if you have any uncertainties. It is recommended that you hire a professional to install your stove. There are many safety issues involved and insurance approval is more likely if it is properly installed by a qualified technician.