

WOOD HEAT: ECONOMY & SAFETY

Wood Heat: Some do it for economy

Over the past five years, central heating with wood has increased in popularity. This allowed people the convenience of having heat through-out the house and still not depend on expensive conventional heating bills. Many people that were using wood stoves have upgraded themselves with central furnaces. Although a wood furnace needs to be installed, there are convenience not available with the space heater.

An in-home checklist for your home's safety

The following checklist should help determine if a wood stove installation meets minimum standards for safety:

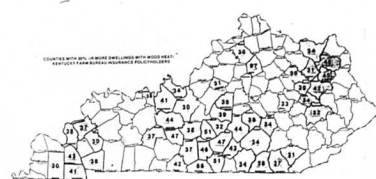
- Stove and area should be clean and well maintained.
- Stove should not be too large for room or area (room sizes).
- No broken parts or cracks in stove.
- Legs should be sturdy and secure. Hinges and draft levers should not be faulty.
- Minimum 36" from stove to all combustible materials including walls, furniture, drapes, etc.
- Minimum 18" from stove to combustible walls may be allowed if they are protected by 24 gauge sheet metal.



This You May Want To Do Before That First Fire

October marks the beginning of another heating season in Kentucky. Furnaces, stoves and fireplaces are being used for heat in homes across the state.

Some have already been in use as the weather pattern alternates between cool and warm, damp and dry. Although some regular maintenance is required in any heating system, furnaces with wood heat appliances - either fireplace inserts, free standing stoves or wood furnaces - face a steeper challenge in reading



In a Nutshell

The most important things to remember about using your wood heater safely are:

- CHECK FOR SAFE DISTANCES
 - CLEAN YOUR CHIMNEY WHEN THERE IS A QUARTER-INCH BUILDUP OF CREOSOTE
 - INSTALL A SMOKE DETECTOR ON EVERY FLOOR
- These rules will help you heat with wood safely.

For one thing, there are quite a few wood furnaces that can be added to an existing conventional furnace, utilizing existing ductwork. Heat is distributed evenly and there is no smoggy mess because the furnace is usually in the basement.

Also there is usually a thermostat located in the living area that controls the firing rate.

The wood add-on is of the same principal design as the standard furnace.

The wood add-on is designed to be attached to an existing furnace, and although a furnace is desirable, there are some add-ons that are dependent on the primary furnace burner for distributing the heat.

Think Safety FIRST!

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