



Washington County, Oregon

**WOOD STOVE
EXCHANGE**

Let's clear the air.

Apply for the Wood Stove Exchange Program

If you use an old wood stove (made before 1993) as an essential heat source in your home, you could get a \$1,500-\$3,500 rebate when you exchange it for one of these other cleaner and more efficient heating devices:

- Pellet stove or insert
- Gas stove or insert
- Gas furnace
- Ducted heat pump
- Ductless heat pump

Some households may be eligible for a full-cost replacement up to \$5,000. These households can also choose a new, EPA-certified wood stove for their replacement device.

www.WoodStoveExchange.com

503-846-4425

Helpful Resources

- More tips for burning wood safely and efficiently are available at www.EPA.gov/burnwise.
- Buying or selling a home with an uncertified wood stove? Go to www.oregon.gov and type "heat smart" into the search box.
- Keep track of the daily air quality by downloading the OregonAir or AirNow app on your smartphone.
- Sign up to receive air quality red day alert notifications by text, email or phone call at www.PublicAlerts.org.
- Washington County monitors the air quality and assigns a green, yellow or red status every day from November through February. Keep track of the daily air quality in Washington County by visiting www.co.washington.or.us/air.

Tips for Burning Wood Safely and Efficiently



WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON



Why should I burn dry and clean wood?

Dry, clean wood makes stove start-up much easier. It also produces less smoke indoors and out of the chimney.

In the winter, weather inversions can trap stagnant air and unhealthy wood smoke close to the ground. This can be especially dangerous for children, older adults and those with heart and lung conditions.

Burning wet wood — over 20 percent moisture content — increases stove emissions and has a greater impact on air quality.

Not only is it safer and healthier, it has been proven that burning dry, clean wood produces the most heat (BTUs).

How long does it take to season (dry out) firewood?

The traditional rule of thumb is to season firewood for at least six months before the heating season. Some hardwoods require one to two years. It depends on piece size, tree species and local climate.

Much of your outdoor seasoned wood can still be over 20 percent moisture content, even when stored under cover and well ventilated. Bringing this wood inside for 24-48 hours before using it should dry it out to below 15 percent moisture content, which is ideal.

Consider using a moisture meter to regularly check the moisture content of the wood you burn. For the most accurate reading, test the wood in the middle of the split face.



What kind of wood should I burn?

Only burn firewood from fir or hardwood trees. Softwoods can create more creosote, which clogs up chimneys and flues pipes and creates a potential fire hazard.

Split wood dries out more completely from end to end than wood that isn't split. Even splitting the smaller limbs will ensure they are drying through.

Do not burn treated, painted or finished wood. Do not burn furniture, trash, plastic or paper with color printing. Burning these materials sends off harmful fumes and pollutants.

What else can I do for a safe and energy-efficient burning season?

Your wood stove has a gasket around the door creating an airtight seal against the firebox. Check the condition and if you see any damage, replace the gasket immediately. If the door gasket is missing, get one from the manufacturer, a dealer or store and install it immediately.

Have your chimney or flue inspected and cleaned at least once a year by a licensed, insured and certified chimney sweep. If you prefer to do it yourself, you can rent kits locally or you may be able to borrow one from your library.