

# Wood burner can blow up in your face

That charming wood burning stove you picked up at a garage sale this past summer has been a real conversation piece. Now it's time to decide whether or not to turn it into a source of heat.

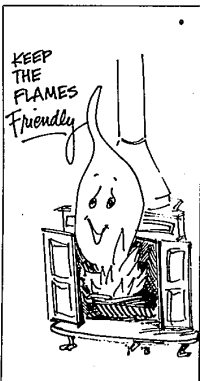
However, while wood burning stoves have a charm all their own and have become very popular at a time of skyrocketing fuel bills, they do present a potential danger to life and property, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

There's a lot more to using a wood burning stove than just installing it in your home and lighting the fire. In the first two months of 1978, the U.S. Product Safety Commission reported approximately 60 fires caused by wood burning stoves. The commission is concerned that improper installation and misuse of these stoves will result in further loss of life and damage in the fall and winter of 1978/79.

The commission's concern is shared by fire prevention officials, stove manufacturers and the insurance industry. The problem, according to executives in each of these areas, is that the vast majority of wood burning stoves are installed in homes on a do-it-yourself basis. The result is improper installation, leading to fires causing loss of lives and millions of dollars in property damage.

To combat the rising potential for more losses, insurance companies are distributing these safety warnings to policy holders:

- Be sure your stove is made of sturdy, suitable material, such as cast iron or steel. Look for stoves listed by Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or other recognized testing laboratories.
- If you purchase a used stove, check it carefully for cracks or other defects. The legs, hinges, grates and draft louvers also should be checked carefully.



- Leave at least three feet of clearance between the stove and any combustible material (wall, ceiling, furniture, newspapers, any flammable object.)
- A pad under the stove is essential.
- Never burn anything but seasoned, dry hardwood in the stove.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any flammable liquid (including lighter fluid) to start a fire. Start a fire by using small strips of paper and twigs.
- Do not treat the stove as a garage unit.
- Consult a detailed safety manual to be sure the stove pipe and flue meet safety requirements.

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3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
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5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.
8. A fear of cancer that can prevent you from detecting cancer at an early stage. A stage when it is highly curable. Everyone's afraid of cancer, but don't let it scare you to death.

American Cancer Society

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