



Wood stoves and fireplaces add coziness as well as heat to a room, but safety precautions need to be taken to prevent home fires.

Safety checklist

Wood stove installation demands care

The increased use of woodburning stoves has been matched by increase in home fires. Fire officials say many of the fires could be avoided with proper installation and maintenance.

Do-it-yourselfers are urged to follow manufacturers' instructions to the letter and all installations should be inspected by a licensed heating contractor or by an experienced installer.

Before purchasing a free-standing, woodburning stove, buyers need to review local building codes to assure woodburners are allowed, fire officials say.

Labels on the stove should show that the model was tested by a nationally recognized, independent testing laboratory.

If woodburners are used as the primary source of heat, monthly inspections of chimneys should be made.

Because wood is a slower burning fuel, creosote, a flammable substance that collects on the inside of the chimney's walls, becomes more of a fire hazard.

When selecting the type of wood for fuel, choose dry, well-seasoned hardwoods such as maple, elm, oak and birch. Experts suggest avoiding pine, spruce and other softwoods. They give less heat and increase creosote buildup.

Here are some safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Keep the burner 36 inches from walls and allow 6 inches of air space beneath the stove.
- Only use the properly designed chimney for the type of stove being installed.
- Place the stove on a base of non-combustible material which extends at least 18 inches beyond the stove in all directions.

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• Check the chimney for loose mortar, crumbling bricks, obstruction and creosote buildup before and after each heating season.

• All pipes connecting the stove to the chimney should be 24-gauge corrosion resistant steel with 18 inches between it and other combustible material. Avoid more than two 90-degree turns from the stove to the chimney.

• Seal off unused flues with a non-combustible material that provides the same degree of fire resistance as the chimney.

Start stacking

Time to replenish woodpile

Our newly remodeled basement has a wood-burning stove. As a novice, I need information on selecting firewood.

G.M.
Oak Park

Wood continues to increase in popularity as a complementary fuel source despite its increase in price over the past few years. Five characteristics to consider when buying firewood: The amount of wood, the species (types), the moisture content, the degree of preparation, and finally, the price. Wood is sold in standard units of measure. A full cord measures eight feet long, four feet high and four feet wide or 128 cubic feet. A face cord is eight feet long, four feet high and as wide as the length of the cut wood — 12 to 24 inches is usual or approximately one-third of a full cord. A "truck load" is a vague term depending on the size of the truck bed.

The most important species characteristic of wood is its heating value. Certain species (types) of wood are denser, and when burned give off more heat.

Most wood dealers do not take time to grade wood. It's usually cut and stacked as it falls. Learn to recognize the types of wood by the bark, so you can determine the value of the wood. Wood can be bought "green" or "seasoned," depending on the moisture content. Seasoned or dry wood starts to

burn more easily and gives off more heat, so it is preferred. Green wood has not been aged before cutting and usually has a "hissing" sound when burned.

Preparing the wood is hard work, and the price will reflect how much of the work you're willing to do yourself. If you want to have finely split pieces stacked near your doorstep, expect to pay a premium price. If you want to go the cheapest route, cut the wood yourself from free-standing trees. Wood can be bought in any stage between these two extremes. Finally, the price reflects all of the above characteristics. A difference in any one of these characteristics will affect the price.

Wood is a favorite source of fuel because of its heating capabilities as well as the psychological lift it generates. It will never replace the more dominant sources of power, but it is a pleasant complement on a cold, snowy night.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, 1025 Shelby, Detroit, 48226.

Chrysler boosts UF

United Foundation Torch Drive volunteers reported this week that \$36 million, or 72.1 percent of this year's \$50-million goal, has been raised.

The announcement was made at the fourth report meeting by Torch Drive Advance Gifts Chairman Joan Warren. Chrysler contributed a total of \$3.8 million, consisting of both employee gifts (\$3.4 million) and a gift from the

Chrysler Corp. Fund (\$375,000). This is the second consecutive year both of these gifts increased by at least 20 percent.

The 36th annual Torch Drive continues through Nov. 8. Contributions to this campaign support 130 charitable organizations in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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November 8-11, 1984

Do-it-yourself Detroit!

Builders Do-it-Yourself Home and Energy Show

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Thursday, meet the stars of "All My Children" in person!

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Cobo Hall will be packed with thousands of money-saving, energy-saving products to see and buy with special show discounts. Plus, workshops everyday that'll show you how to do everything from caulking windows to car repairs. There's never been anything like it. So roll up your sleeves, Detroit. Cmon down and learn how to do it yourself.

WIN FABULOUS PRIZES EVERYDAY!

With 7 drawings a day, everyday, you've got lots of chances to win fabulous prizes like a \$100 shopping spree at Kitchen Glamor, stereo system, and RCA VCR. Just drop your name in any or all of our 7 treasure chests located throughout the show.

SAVING ENERGY = SAVING MONEY

Utility companies and others will display energy-saving money-saving products for your home. Questions? Ask!

DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK!

Everyday, popular Free Press home repair columnist Lon Grossman will demonstrate ways you can save energy around your house. Everything from wrapping the hot water heater up for the winter, to caulking energy leaks around doors and windows. And you can ask him questions on the spot.

GEAR UP FOR CAR REPAIRS!

Even if you don't know a dipstick from a driveshaft, Automotive Service Councils of Michigan will be here everyday to teach you all you need to know about winterizing your car. How to select a repair shop, how to talk to mechanics and lots more.

YOU'RE COOKING NOW!

Saturday and Sunday, Kitchen Glamor will cook up lots of easy, delicious meals. Come and take a taste, then win a wok, Cuisinart, Kitchen Aid mixer or pasta machine.

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