

# How to use your wood heater the right way

Publication 1964 April 2021

Always use dry, seasoned, untreated hardwood in your woodheater<sup>①</sup>. Make sure your flue is clean.

How to start your fire the right way:

- Leave about two centimetres of ash at the base of your wood heater. This helps when lighting your fire<sup>②</sup>
- Set up plenty of paper, and place small, dry kindling on top<sup>③</sup>
- Now place small wood above the kindling to provide good circulation.
- Put another sheet of paper above your dry kindling and small wood to help the fire light.
- Light at the base to keep flames lively and bright<sup>④</sup>
- Fires should never be dull or smoky.

What to do once your fire is burning:

- Add some mid-size logs, but don't pack the heater too full. This allows air to circulate so wood burns properly<sup>⑤</sup>
- Fully open air controls for the first 20 minutes until fire is burning well<sup>⑥</sup>
- To reduce smoke, set air controls high enough to keep the fire burning brightly. Set air flow to high for 20 minutes each time you add wood.
- Only reduce the air flow when there's a hot bed of charcoal.
- Never close the air flow completely. This produces little heat and lots of smoke.
- Never let your wood heater smoulder, especially overnight. Let it burn down instead. This produces less smoke and air pollution<sup>⑦</sup>

Make sure you maintain your wood heater well.

[epa.vic.gov.au/woodheaters](http://epa.vic.gov.au/woodheaters)

