Did You Know?...

Whether you operate an old or new wood burning appliance you can help reduce air pollution from wood smoke and burn wood more safely and efficiently.

WET WOOD IS A WASTE!

For more information, please visit: regionaldistrict.com/airquality

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YOUR HEALTH

- Wood smoke contains small particles (PM$_{2.5}$) and chemicals that can be harmful to your health, particularly for those with respiratory conditions.

- Particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$) was classified as carcinogenic to humans in 2013. Research studies prove links between short and long-term exposure to PM$_{2.5}$ and decreased cardiovascular health and morbidity; additional studies have also drawn links to atherosclerosis, adverse birth outcomes and childhood respiratory disease.

- Burning wet or moist wood is dangerous to your health since it produces more smoke.

- Small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks.

- Exposure to wood smoke can cause watery eyes, stuffy noses and chest tightness. Everyone may experience symptoms but children and seniors are especially vulnerable.

- Research has shown that there is no threshold below which smoke has no health effects. This means it is important to minimize the amount of smoke produced and humans’ exposure to it.

- Please consider your and your neighbors’ health when you burn.

YOUR HOME

- If you are planning to install a new heating device, choose cleaner and more efficient heating (non-wood burning) devices. Natural gas and electricity are much cleaner ways to heat a home.

- Improve efficiency and reduce pollution by installing a high-efficiency wood stove, fireplace or insert that is certified as low-emission by CSA International and/or the EPA, as is required by law in the Central Okanagan.

- High-efficiency units allow you to burn a third less wood and get the same amount of heat.

- A well-sealed, well-insulated and properly ventilated home will reduce your energy needs.

- Advanced technology stoves mean less smoke, less work and big cost savings.

- Most insurance companies require confirmation of proper installation of your wood burning appliance by WETT professionals in order to offer you competitive home insurance rates. Without proof of installation by a WETT professional, your home insurance could cost you more.

YOUR CHOICE

- Wet wood is a waste! Burn only clean, dry firewood and save money.

Four easy steps to dry wood:

Split
- Split into pieces 10-15 cm in diameter. Pieces should be about 6 cm shorter than the firebox size.

Stack
- Stack wood in a single row with the split side down.

Cover
- Cover the top of the stack to protect it from rain or snow. Make sure there is space between the cover and the stacked wood; don’t let the cover rest directly on the wood.

Store
- Allow enough time for wood to dry. Soft woods take approx. 6 months, hardwoods take approx. 12 months.

Is your wood dry?

Properly dried wood is lighter, has cracks in the grain on the ends, and sounds hollow when knocked against another piece of wood. The moisture content of the wood should be under 20%, preferably around 15%. Moisture meters allow you to test the moisture level in wood, are available in stores and can cost as little as $20.