



Surviving with Energy Alternatives

The recent upsurge in cost of oil, LP & natural gas, and wood has all of us considering new heating options. Many of those changes need attention to safety details in order to maintain fire and life safety.

Woodstoves

Installation:



- ✓ Follow manufacturer's directions
- ✓ Install to its own single use lined chimney flue
- ✓ Do not install on same flue as oil burner
- ✓ If you do not have directions, follow this link to a generic wood burning stove guide,

prepared by the Maine State Fire Marshall's Office:
http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/documents/2005Woodburningguide_000.pdf

Questions? Contact your Acadia Loss Control Rep to discuss an installation (800-773-4300).

Fuel:

Burn dry, fully seasoned hardwood. Burning green wood will increase the difficulty in using the stove and greatly increase the creosote buildup in the chimney. Softwood can also increase the creosote build up. Creosote buildup is the fuel for chimney fires.



Unsafe Locations:

Woodstoves are not permitted in residential garages because the fire within the stove cannot be quickly stopped if there is a spill of gasoline or leak of LP gas.

- Gasoline and LP gas vapors travel along the floor and can be ignited by the stove
- Flammable vapors can flash back to the container, resulting in explosion
- Some repair garage installations may be acceptable depending on vehicle type and service
- **Questions?** Contact Acadia Loss Control

Maintenance:

- ✓ Have professional chimney inspection annually
- ✓ Clean creosote build-up from the chimney as needed to reduce chance of chimney fire
- ✓ Inspect stove each year for sound condition

Woodstove vs. Pellet Stove

Pellet burners are not expected to have the chimney fire problem that ordinary wood stoves do. When a pellet stove is vented to a chimney there should be less chance of a chimney fire, because the firing rate of pellet stoves is fuel-regulated by feeding small doses of fuel. Conversely, woodstoves are air-regulated, controlling the fire by restricting the flow of air allowed into the stove. Woodstoves have two inherent dangers, overheating and creosote deposits. These dangers are largely the result of the difficulties in air-regulating a wood fire.



Pellet Stove

Installation:



- ✓ Follow manufacturer's directions with care for installation and venting
- ✓ Avoid same flue as another appliance, unless labeled for specific use
- ✓ Requires electricity, provide electric outlet, not an extension cord.

Other Sources of Heat

- Electric and K-1
 - Look for auto shut-off if tipped over
 - Use in safe area
 - Don't dry clothing/towels on it
- K-1 heaters create carbon monoxide, use only in a suitably sized room(not too small) with door open
- Burning coal creates carbon monoxide
- Add a CO detector with your new heater

In Case of Chimney Fire:

- ✓ Get all occupants out of the building
- ✓ Call 911
- ✓ Close all dampers and air inlets to appliance

In the words of John Dean, Maine's Fire Marshall,
"Don't lose your life trying to save money."

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