

hanover builder

wood burner sales, installation & fireplace repairs

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Good practice with solid fuel appliances

Safety Since October 2010 all new solid fuel appliance installations require a carbon monoxide alarm fitted in the room where the appliance is used. The device is required to conform to BS EN 50291:2001. Carbon Monoxide has no smell and can be deadly. Common causes of Carbon Monoxide spills are lack of ventilation, inadequate chimney & appliance cleaning and blocked flues.

www.hanoverbuilder.co.uk/fireplaces.php#Carbonmonoxidealarm

Sweeping HETAS guidance on sweeping is that in domestic dwellings chimneys are swept at least twice a year if wood is burnt and a minimum of once a year if smokeless fuels are used. Manufacturers may have differing requirements for specific appliances, HETAS guidance is the *minimum* requirement.

Maintenance Please be aware that chimneys, fireplaces and stoves all deteriorate over time and require periodic maintenance. Stainless steel liners still need to be swept at the intervals recommended above and liners are not considered a permanent solution, they have an expected life of 10-15 years dependant on use.

Using a solid fuel appliance in an unlined chimney will cause a deterioration of the masonry over a period of time specifically from acid erosion of the mortar and possibly the brick work, whilst the process is slow it is to be monitored and to be periodically repaired if necessary.

Rope seals on stoves, flues and soot doors require periodic inspection and renewal if necessary. Any debris build up should be removed and the 'throat' or baffle plate cleaned.

Smoke control areas Please check whether or not your appliance is installed in a smoke control area and comply with the specifics of that area. Your local council will have details of any such area or visit:

<http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/locations.php>
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/airquality/SCA_Maps.pdf

HETAS currently list the following as suitable smokeless fuels for closed appliances (stoves, inset room heaters etc.)

Ecobrite, Homefire, Homefire Ovals, Phurnacite, Ancit, Taybrite, Multiheat, Briteheat, Ecoal, Maxibrite, Briteflame, Newflame, Supacite, Coalite, Coalite Ovals, Therma, Cosycoke Briquette, Sunbrite Doubles, Cosycoke, Pureheat, Onllwyn GP Nuts (both small & large). Most but *not all* these fuels are suitable for open fires in smoke control areas.

More information can be found at:

<http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/fuels.php>

DEFRA (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) exempt specific appliances from the smoke control legislation (hence the term *DEFRA approved*), these appliances can burn wood, coal, bituminous coal etc. in smoke control areas. Wood generally burns better, and more slowly, on a bed of ash.

For solid fuel deliveries Corralls operate along the South coast (including east & west Sussex), Kent, the Midlands and East Anglia.

www.corralls.co.uk

Wood is best burnt when it's moisture content is around 20%, the higher the moisture content of wood the more creosote deposits are left in the chimney, decreasing efficiency and risking a chimney fire. Wood burnt with a 30% moisture content will give off approximately half of the heat of the same wood burnt with 20% moisture content. The easiest way of measuring timber moisture content is via a meter such as:

www.hanoverbuilder.co.uk/fireplaces.php#moisturemeter

Helpline HETAS/The Solid Fuel Association provide a free helpline for solid fuel users **0845 601 4406**

Servicing I can offer solid fuel appliance servicing and repairs, more information and prices at:
www.hanoverbuilder.co.uk/woodburnerservice.php



www.hanoverbuilder.co.uk/fireplaces.php

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