



FAST FACTS

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) estimates an average of **50,100 heating fires** in residential buildings occurred in the United States each year and resulted in an annual average of approximately **150 deaths, 575 injuries, and \$326 million** in property loss.

From 2008 to 2010, **heating** was the **second leading cause** and accounted for **14 percent** of all residential building fires responded to by fire departments across the Nation. (USFA)

Confined fires, those fires confined to chimneys, flues or flue burners, accounted for **87 percent** of residential building heating fires. (USFA)

Thirty percent of the non-confined residential building heating fires occurred because the heat source was too close to combustibles. (USFA)

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, **more than 150 people** die on average per year from carbon monoxide poisoning, related to the use of combustion appliances, including wood stoves, in the home.

EPA estimates there are more than **29 million** fireplaces, **243,000** hydronic heaters, and **12 million** wood stoves nationwide.

EPA estimates that **65 percent (7.8 million)** of the nation's wood stoves are older, inefficient devices.

EPA estimates that if all of the old wood stoves in the United States were replaced with cleaner-burning hearth appliances, an estimated **\$56-126 billion** in health benefits per year would be realized.

Smoke from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces contain a mixture of harmful gases and small particles. Breathing these small particles can cause **asthma attacks** and severe bronchitis, aggravate heart and lung disease, and may increase the likelihood of respiratory illnesses.

Changing out **one** old dirty, inefficient wood stove is equivalent to the **PM2.5 pollution** reduction of taking **five** old diesel trucks off the road.

Benefits of replacing old wood stoves and fireplaces:

- saves money, fuel, time, and resources.
- up to **50 percent** more energy efficient.
- uses **1/3 less** wood for the same heat.
- cuts creosote build-up in chimneys that helps reduce the risk of fire.
- reduces particle pollution indoors and out by **70 percent**.

The U.S. Biomass Tax Credit allows a credit up to **\$300** for eligible stoves bought in 2013 and may be retroactive for stoves purchased in 2012. The tax credit expires December 2013.

After start-up, a properly installed, correctly used EPA-certified wood stove should be smoke free. If you see or smell smoke that means you may have a problem.

To help reduce smoke, make sure to burn dry wood that has been split, stacked, covered, and stored for at least 6 months. Never burn garbage, plastics, or pressure-treated wood.

Research estimates **70 percent** of smoke from chimneys can actually reenter your home and your neighbor's home. (Pierson et al 1989)

Consider using a HEPA filter in the same room as your stove or fireplace. A study from the University of British Columbia indicates that HEPA filters can reduce indoor particle pollution by **60 percent**.