

Wood smoke can take your breath away!

Consider the air we share.

Be smoke aware.



How can I reduce wood smoke?

More than 50 per cent of Melbourne's fine particle emissions come from wood heaters.

If you own a wood heater, you can take the following steps to reduce your smoke:

1. Where possible, consider using alternative ways of heating your house, especially on calm days with not much wind, as smoke from wood heaters can build up in these conditions.
2. Have your wood heater and flue serviced each year by a professional.
3. Use only dry, seasoned and untreated wood.
4. Never burn plastics or foam, painted wood or treated timber (for example, railway sleepers or fence palings). These generate toxic fumes in addition to wood smoke air pollutants.
5. Only use small or medium pieces of wood and avoid overloading your heater, as this will starve the fire of oxygen and cause it to smoulder.
6. Wait for the fire to establish before adding extra fuel.
7. Open the air controls for a few minutes before adding fuel; then, after reloading, wait until the fire is burning before turning the air controls down.
8. Don't let your fire smoulder overnight. Fine particle levels can build up over night and early morning during calm and cold conditions.

For more information on how to reduce smoke and improve air quality, scan this QR code:



© The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, June 2024

ISBN: 978-1-76136-277-4 (pdf/online/MS word)