

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Why we care

Wood-burning stoves and fireplaces pose a major threat to clean air in Oregon. They emit millions of pounds of pollution each year--more than half of that emitted from the 2017 Sonoma County wildfires in northern California. Tiny particles in the smoke can damage lung tissue and carry harmful toxins directly to the bloodstream.

Simple, positive change

- Retrofit your fireplace. Fireplaces are inefficient heaters with emissions at least 20 times that of certified woodstoves.
 - Increase efficiency by purchasing a [gas, electric, or wood burning insert](#).
- Replace an old wood stove.
 - Pellet stoves are generally cleaner and more efficient than any wood-burning stove.
 - An EPA Step 2 certified wood stove generates fewer emissions than an older stove and uses less wood to create more heat.
 - If you are buying or selling a home with a wood stove or fireplace insert in Oregon, you must ensure it is certified. If not, it must be removed.
- A federal \$300 tax credit is available until December 31, 2020 for replacing an older wood stove with one that is that is EPA-certified to be 75 percent efficient.
- Burn smart.
 - Burn only wood seasoned six months or more: green wood has only half the heating value.
 - For fireplaces, consider using compressed logs or bricks that reduce pollution.
 - Build small, hot fires, only adding one or two pieces of wood at a time.
 - Don't burn junk mail, gift wrapping, plastic-coated paper, or treated wood because they may emit toxic fumes.
- For more information, see [DEQ's website page](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.