

PELLET STOVES

Once you experience a pellet stove, it's easy to understand why people rave about these efficient and unique home heaters that generate an automated, economical and earth-friendly wood heat...and all without firewood! For just pennies an hour, a pellet stove can deliver a deep, penetrating warmth that provides independence from high heating bills while emitting almost no wood smoke. And, with tremendous flexibility in installation and sizing, pellet stoves are a sophisticated choice for convenient heat that helps protect the environment and doesn't break the bank.

Help Take Control of Heating Costs

Pellet stoves are the perfect choice for people that often experience high home heating bills due to fluctuating energy costs. In fact, pellet stoves are often installed in homes as secondary heat sources to help maintain control over heating expenses. The reason is the fuel. Pellet stoves burn economical pellets made from recycled sawdust. The economy of pellets is due to the low cost of the materials and the efficiency of the manufacturing processes, as well as the ability for people to lock in an entire year of fuel costs before the beginning of the heating season.



Efficient Heat and Minimal Emissions

Pellet stoves are efficient home heaters thanks to state-of-the-art technology that helps control the fuel-to-air ratio within the stove and ensures almost complete combustion of the fuel. This technology helps to generate minimal wood smoke, making pellet stoves the lowest emission solid-fuel burning hearth products available today and a popular choice in areas where winter air quality is an issue.

Automated Wood Burning

A pellet stove is an automated wood burner. Pellet stoves operate with an easy-to-use

convenience while providing a rich, radiant and convection heat. To use a pellet stove, simply load a supply of pellets into the hopper and start the stove. Once the stove is operating, an automated feed system delivers the wood pellets into a burn chamber within the stove where combustion air is forced through the fire creating a mini furnace. In many pellet stoves, the ignition system is also automatic, increasing the convenience factor.

Easily Installed and Maintained

The power-venting feature of a pellet stove allows for installation almost anywhere in a home. The key to installation is placing the stove near an electrical outlet. All pellet stoves require electricity to operate, although battery packs are available for many stoves just in case the power goes out. Once installed, pellet stoves are easy to maintain. Routine tasks include filling the hopper with pellets, emptying the ash pan weekly, periodic cleaning of the burn pot, hopper, ash traps and glass, and annual professional service of the entire unit before the start of each cold season.

Selecting a Pellet Stove

Much like any other appliance, it is important to spend the time to choose the right pellet stove. Before you make your final decision, visit a specialty retailer in your area for experienced advice. A specialty retailer is a trained pellet stove expert. He or she can arrange for installation by a certified professional installer and provide a resource for where to purchase pellets in your area. Specialty retailers are also the best source of information about how to correctly operate a pellet stove and what is necessary for proper maintenance.

For a list of specialty retailers, visit www.pelletheat.org.

PELLET STOVE CHECKLIST

Information to consider when selecting a pellet stove

- TYPE:** Pellet stoves are classified by the amount of heat they generate – high versus low output.
- SIZE:** The physical size of a pellet stove is less important than the heat-generating capacity of the stove and the size of the fuel hopper. A small stove can heat a large space but might not hold more than a day's worth of pellets.
- LOCATION:** Pellet stoves require less installation space than other types of stoves and can be located as little as three inches from a wall, depending on the model. A pellet stove must also be installed a specific distance away from combustible surfaces and materials, such as drapes and doors, and be placed on non-combustible surface such as a hearth pad.
- VENTING:** Since pellet stoves are power vented they can be installed almost anywhere in home, including through the ceiling, through a wall, or into an existing masonry chimney as long as the installation includes at least three feet of vertical chimney. Pellet stove chimneys are unique and are usually three or four inches in diameter. The chimney is also lined with stainless steel.
- FEATURES:** There are three different types of ignition systems available in pellet stoves: standard (requiring the use of starter gel and a match); self-starting (where the user pushes a button to start the stove or uses a remote control); and fully automatic (where the stove is controlled by a thermostat and cycles on and off depending on the heat level selected). Other optional features include self-cleaning glass, self-cleaning burn pots, and deep pedestal ash pans. Some stove models even have battery back-up systems for when the power goes out (since pellet stoves require electricity to operate).
- STYLE:** Full bay view doors and windows trimmed in gold or black are examples of the styling options available for pellet stoves. Porcelain or cast iron finishes are also available options with many models of pellet stoves.
- INSTALLATION:** To ensure the safe and reliable installation of a pellet stove, the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association recommends that people use a specialty retailer and a certified professional installer to perform installation tasks. These professionals will obtain the necessary building permits, make sure that the necessary three feet of vertical chimney is used in the installation and ensure the stove is installed on a hearth pad.
- MAINTENANCE:** Pellet stoves are simple to maintain, but routine tasks must be performed regularly to ensure proper function. These tasks include emptying

the ash drawer, cleaning the burn pot, hopper, ash traps and glass, and scheduling professional service inspections each year before the start of the cold season. In addition, the HPBA recommends that chimneys and vents be inspected annually (and cleaned as necessary) by a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America.

FUEL REQUIREMENTS: Two grades of wood pellet fuel are available for pellet stoves: premium and standard. The difference between the two is their percentage of inorganic ash content. There is significantly less stove maintenance with the use of premium pellet fuel. There are also pellet stoves that can burn pellets with corn, a growing trend in home heating.

AVERAGE COST: The price of the appliance itself is only part of the total cost of owning a pellet stove. Other considerations are the cost of the chimney and installation, annual fuel costs and annual maintenance.

COST CHECKLIST:

- Pellet Stove _____
- Chimney _____
- Installation/Delivery _____
- Hearth Pad _____
- Annual Fuel Costs _____
- Annual Maintenance _____

Pellet Stove Benefits

- Helps control home heating bills.
- Lock in annual fuel costs before the cold weather begins.
- Protects the environment.
- Creates an automated wood fire.
- Simple to operate and maintain.
- Installation flexibility in most places in the home.

This information brought to you by this specialty retailer: