

HOT TIPS FOR A BETTER FIRE

BEST BURN PRACTICES FOR YOUR HYDRONIC HEATER

Did you know that by changing the way you burn wood in your hydronic heater you can save money, reduce air pollution and protect your health?

Here are a few simple tips to make your fire burn hotter, keep your wallet fatter and keep your local air cleaner and healthier.

 **Season all firewood.** All firewood should be split, securely covered or stored, and aged for at least six months. Seasoned wood burns hotter, cuts fuel consumption and reduces the amount of smoke your hydronic heater produces.

 **Choose the right firewood.** Hardwoods are the best. Never burn trash or treated wood, which can emit toxic air pollutants.

 **Start it right.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to start a fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, charcoal starter, or a propane torch.

 **Don't let the fire smolder.** Many people think they can overload the heater once per day and let it smolder when less heat is needed. But reducing the hydronic heater's air supply does little for heating and can increase air pollution.

 **Upgrade to an EPA-qualified hydronic heater.** EPA-qualified hydronic heaters burn cleaner and more efficiently. A cleaner-burning hydronic heater emits 70-90 percent less particle pollution than older unqualified units.

 **Heater size matters.** Choose the hydronic heater that is the right size for your needs. If it's too big the fuel will smolder at low loads and create more air pollution.

 **Clean ashes from your hydronic heater.** Excess ashes can clog air intake vents and reduce efficiency. Discard ashes after they are completely extinguished. Do not leave the metal ash container near the house or near any flammable material. This could start a fire!

 **Keep the stack clean** to provide good draft for your hydronic heater and to reduce risk of a stack fire. Have a certified chimney sweep inspect the stack once a year.

 **Be a good neighbor.** Follow best practices for stack heights and proximity to property lines and always remember to comply with state and local codes.

 **Follow instructions.** Operate your hydronic heater according to the manufacturer's instructions and follow all maintenance procedures specified by the manufacturer.

