



FAST FACTS

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires **(30%)** was mainly due to having a dirty chimney (i.e., creosote buildup).

Heating equipment (including wood stoves) is the **second leading** cause of home fires, and third leading cause of home fire deaths.

Most fireplace and chimney fires are caused by creosote buildup, and could be prevented.

EPA believes there are approximately **13 million** fireplaces, **250,000** hydronic heaters, and **8.5 million** wood stoves in use nationwide.

Five million (57 percent) 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 particle matter (PM_{2.5}). 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 **PM_{2.5}** reduction of taking **five** old diesel trucks off the road.

The 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
- Cuts creosote build-up in chimneys that helps reduce the risk of fire
- Reduces PM_{2.5} indoors and out

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.

Studies show that an estimated **70 percent** of smoke from chimneys can actually reenter your home and/or your neighbor's home.

Consider using a HEPA filter in the same room as your stove or fireplace. Studies indicate that HEPA filters can reduce indoor particle pollution by **60 percent**.