

NEVER BURN:

X RUBBISH

**X CHEMICALLY TREATED
OR PAINTED WOOD**



For more information

on wood heaters and air pollution,
visit the Department of Water and
Environmental Regulation's website:

www.dwer.wa.gov.au/burnwise

or email

burnwise@dwer.wa.gov.au

Phone: 6364 7000

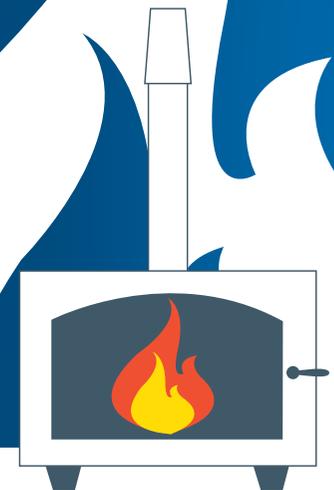
More information
on domestic wood smoke is also
available from your local government's
environmental health section.

Your local contact is:



Smoke

from backyard barbeques,
chimineas and
outdoor pizza ovens



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

Wood smoke from outdoor fireplaces is unhealthy and can create a nuisance for your neighbours.

Wood smoke is made up of a complex mix of gases and fine particles which are the product of incomplete combustion. Research shows that air pollution has health impacts even at levels significantly below current air quality standards. A safe threshold below which there are no observed negative health effects has not been established for particle exposure.

Wood smoke is similar to tobacco smoke in composition and has known health impacts. These include:

- eye, nose and throat irritation
- increased asthma and respiratory problems
- headaches, nausea and dizziness
- aggravation of chronic heart and lung conditions.

Wood smoke is especially dangerous for people with existing respiratory problems, for the very young and the elderly. Even if you are healthy, wood smoke can make you feel lethargic and generally unwell.

- Note: under the ***Bushfires Act (1954)*** lighting of fires is prohibited on total fire ban days.

Local impacts of wood smoke

Wood smoke has other adverse effects such as loss of amenity or creation of a nuisance. This includes soiling of washing or soot on outdoor settings. Smoke may also interfere with quality of life.

Wood smoke affects both indoor and outdoor air quality and has local or neighbourhood effects as well as an overall impact on regional ambient air quality.

In many local governments in Western Australia it is an offence to cause smoke nuisance.



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Actions to reduce smoke

The amount of smoke that your outdoor fireplace emits can be minimised by:

- using plenty of kindling and newspaper to quickly establish a bright fire
- adding logs gradually to a bright hot fire
- only burning dry fire wood that has been seasoned for at least one–two years.

Backyard barbeques, chimineas, outdoor pizza ovens and other outdoor fireplaces should be operated so they do not produce any smoke.

