

It's time to fill the woodshed

While we're all hoping for a COVID-19 free winter, we can't leave anything to chance – and that includes your firewood supplies.

With uncertainty still around us on how long it will take for the threat of COVID-19 to die down, we recommend you get your firewood in as soon as possible so that you can be warm and cosy when winter bites. In the event of a level 3 or 4 lockdown, you'll want to know you can keep your home and family warm and dry whatever the weather outside. So, get on the phone to a Good Wood supplier and

order your winter's warmth. Remember to ask for seasoned dry wood that will be ready to burn this winter unless you are planning to store it for another year.

When ordering seasoned wood from a Good Wood supplier, request that the wood complies with Council's maximum moisture requirements. You can test by striking two pieces of wood together - dry wood will make a sharp cracking sound, or ask to see a moisture meter reading, which should be below 25%. Cracks at the end of the wood are another sign that it is dry.



Your local Good Wood suppliers are:

Bay Firewood
027 769 6348

Buyright Firewood
021 127 8957

Quality Firewood
027 449 0622

Richmond Wood And Coal Limited
03 544 6473

Wholesale Firewood
03 546 9595 Or 027 922 9611

How to prepare your woodburner for winter

Now is also a good time to check your woodburner is working as well as it can. There are several things you can check before the winter, to make sure you are getting the best from your woodburner.

Things to look for are:

- Cracks or splits in the firebox
- Broken fire bricks
- Baffle plate damage
- Worn or split door seals

- Air control knobs not sliding freely
- Bird nests or other blockages in the flue

You can also do a test run – light the fire with some kindling and paper and see if you can smell smoke inside the house. If you can, then there could be a crack in the firebox or a leak in the flue. Smoke leaking into the house is unhealthy and can cause breathing difficulties. It can also be an indicator of potential fire risk.

A professional chimney sweep will be able to repair or advise on any problems you find.



Have you checked your woodburner flue?

As late summer slides into early autumn, now is a good time to go through our check list for good winter burning to make sure your home heating is as efficient and cost effective as possible.

In a month or so you may want to start lighting the fire on the first chilly nights. But before you do, it's a good idea to get your flue checked and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. Smoke from a woodburner is made up of gas and chemicals released by the wood as it burns. Using damp wood or putting too much wood on the fire at once can mean that the fire is not burning hot enough to vapourise the residues, so they build up on the inside of the chimney.

Build-up like this will narrow your flue so it doesn't draw as well, make your wood burner less efficient, and could cause a chimney fire if it does ignite. A professional chimney sweep will remove the residue safely, and check your woodburner is set up and ready to go for the winter, so you stay warm and don't waste money on firewood that's not burning well.