

BEST LITTLE WOODSHED 2018

Have you got your entry in for this year's Best Little Woodshed competition? There's some great prizes to be won, and of course entering means that you've got your wood in and under cover in plenty of time for winter, so you can relax and enjoy the rest of the summer.

You'll also have bought your wood at the cheapest time of year. Buying early, storing well means that when the nights get cooler, you'll be ready to light up and keep warm as efficiently and economically as possible.

So if you haven't done so already, get your wood order in to a Good Wood supplier, stack it in a cool dry place under cover, and check out nelson.govt.nz/burnbright for hints on wood storage, competition entry forms and requirements. Please note – entries have been extended and now close at 5pm, 23 February 2018.

Some of the winning ideas we saw last year were:

1. Building the woodshed on castors so that it can be moved out of the way once empty

2. Using large recycled plastic containers with the front and back cut out and holes drilled for ventilation to store small amounts of wood at the back door
3. Stacking the wood artistically so it becomes a feature
4. Using existing passageways and covered areas as wood storage space
5. Building the floor of the woodshed off the ground to allow air flow beneath.

nelson.govt.nz/burnbright



Last year's Best Little Woodshed competition winner Bronwyn Tuck receiving her prize from Councillor Brian McGurk

WHAT'S THE BEST WOOD FOR BURNING?

Now is a good time to get your wood in – it means you've got plenty of time to get it under cover and let it dry before winter.

Always source your wood from a Good Wood supplier (nelson.govt.nz, search term = good wood).

Different woods have different drying and burning properties. It's handy to know what kind of wood you are buying so you know what to expect when you come to burn it. And if you have enough storage space and can access a mix of different woods you then have more choice when you come to use it.

Softwoods and medium-density woods like pine and macrocarpa are faster drying, and can be ready to burn in around 6 to 12 months, but burn rapidly. This means regularly adding wood to keep a cosy blaze going.

'Old man pine,' from trees aged 30 years

or more, is much more resinous and denser than ordinary pine so it burns for longer and puts out more heat, but it takes longer to dry than other softwoods.

Hardwoods such as gum and manuka also take longer to dry – up to 18 months - but they make a good efficient fire as they burn slowly and give off more heat. They are usually more expensive to buy.

Generally speaking, woods high in resin content (pine, spruce, fir) are best mixed with harder woods to prevent the build-up of deposits of creosote in the chimney.

Use soft woods like pine for kindling and to get the fire going. Once the fire is burning well with a bed of hot embers, you can then start adding hardwoods.

Remember: Never burn treated timber or painted wood, plastics, rubbish or glossy magazines.

WOOD	THERMAL VALUE	BURN DURATION
Beech	Hot	Long
Chestnut	Hot	Long
Douglas Fir	Hot	Long
Eucalypt	Hot	Long
Gorse	Very hot	Very long
Kanuka	Very hot	Long
Macrocarpa	Hot	Medium
Poplar	Medium	Medium
Radiata Pine	Medium	Short
Sycamore	Medium	Medium
Tree lucerne	Very hot	Very long
Wattle	Very hot	Very long
Willow	Medium	Medium

Table courtesy of frenzo.co.nz

SAVE MONEY AND STAY WARM WITH A HEAT SAVER FLUE

If you are installing a new woodburner or replacing your flue, it's well worth considering a heat saver flue.

All flues require a cooling air flow around the flue casings to ensure they do not set fire to the building. The way the flue is cooled can have a dramatic effect on the efficiency of your woodburner. The difference in cost between a heat saver flue and a traditional one is minimal.

STANDARD FLUES

Traditional flue systems draw the cooling air from inside the living room. Lab tests have shown that up to 450 litres of heated air a minute can be drawn up between the flue skins and expelled to the outside – leading to a considerable waste of warm air!

This lost air is replaced with cold outside air drawn into the house through gaps and cracks.

ECO OR HEAT SAVER TYPE FLUES

An "Eco/Heat Saver" type flue system draws the cooling air from either the building's roof space cavity or from outside the house. This ensures heat produced by the wood fire remains in the room, vastly reducing heat loss from your home.

An added bonus is that you will use much less wood and still have a toasty warm home. Less wood for more heat also equates to less harmful pollution into the air outside your home, and better return on your investment in fuel for your woodburner.

