

BEST LITTLE WOODSHED 2019 WINNERS

This year's Burn Bright Best Little Woodshed competition judges, Councillor Brian McGurk and Eco-home Advisor Richard Popenhagen, spent an afternoon inspecting woodsheds to find the best three, and an overall winner.

The judges visited a shortlist of five woodsheds and whittled them down to three outstanding sheds with each winning a voucher for a cord of firewood for their owners.

Woodsheds were judged on:

- Cover to keep the rain off
- Airflow to the sides
- Wood up off the ground
- Use of recycled materials
- Innovation of design and material use
- Practicality/ease of use
- Aesthetics.

First: Father and son team Avner and Emanuel Nahmias built a beautiful shed that steps down their drive with a curved roof. The uniquely designed shed is made entirely from recycled materials and is close to the house for easy access with the wheelbarrow. The roof is covered with the lining from a Para Pool, the floor is made of recycled wooden pallets and the sides of recycled ply. There's a storage shed in the central bay for tools.

Second: Kati Doehring's wood burner is not just a heater, it's a way of life. Every spare corner of Kati's outdoor space is put to use for seasoning, drying and storing wood to keep the house warm throughout the winter, with a main storage shed for dry wood,

plus drying spaces under the eaves around the house. The wood is moved into the main storage space once dry, and she uses a moisture meter to ensure she's burning dry wood. Kati tries to have two year's wood storage ahead of her, as the woodburner is the only heater in her house.

Third: Damon Moore built a three bay woodshed to match his house. The bays separate the wood into hard, medium and starter wood, and there is good airflow under the floor. The shed uses some recycled materials, is well designed, solidly built and very close to the house for ease of access. It's a good complement to the look of the house and a smart, functional, stylish wood storage solution.

The Facebook People's Choice prize of a woodburner check and flue clean was won by Avner and Emanuel Nahmias, as their curved roof shed proved very popular with 180 likes.

Councillor Brian McGurk acknowledged the range and quality of sheds entered this year. "I and the rest of the judging panel were impressed with the innovation shown with the design of the woodsheds and recycled building materials. Some took their passion for collecting and storing fire wood to new level. They collected their wood early, used airflow and shelter to dry it out rotated their supply so they had dry wood handy for the winter months."



Councillor Brian McGurk with Avner Nahmias



Kati Doehring



Damon Moore's woodshed

GET A HEAD START ON WINTER

If you've got a woodburner in your living room, you'll want to make sure it's all tuned up and ready to rumble for the colder weather.

Just like you give your car a WOF every year, you need to make sure your woodburner is operating safely and efficiently so that you get the best performance from it.

The best way to check performance is to get a flue and wood burner check from a qualified chimney sweep or

wood burner supplier. Chimney sweeps get booked up well in advance, so call your local supplier and book in now to get it done before winter.

Things that might indicate a problem are:

- Broken fire bricks
- Baffle plate damage
- Worn or split door seals
- Air control knobs not sliding freely

- Blocked flue caused by debris, build-up of residue or bird nests
- Smoke leaking into the room when you light the fire.

The first time you light your fire for the winter, go outside and check for a smoking chimney. Smoke is unburnt fuel which is being wasted, so can be a good indicator of a flue that needs a clean or a woodburner that needs servicing.

5 EASY STEPS TO A SMOKE FREE WOODBURNER

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Stack dry wood under shelter with plenty of good ventilation
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Have your flue professionally cleaned and your woodburner checked
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Use lots of newspaper and dry kindling to light the fire
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Let the fire get going well before you add more wood
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Check for smoke after 15 mins to make sure you are burning right