



FAST FACTS

Nearly **7 percent of home fires** are caused by creosote build-up in the chimney.

Each year in the United States, about **3,000 people lose their lives** in residential fires – mostly from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, **more than 150 people** die on average per year from carbon monoxide poisoning, related to the use of combustion appliances, including wood stoves, in the home.

EPA believes there are more than **29 million** fireplaces, **243,000** hydronic heaters, and **12 million** wood stoves nationwide.

65 percent (7.8 million) 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 small particles. 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 **PM2.5 pollution** reduction of taking **five** old diesel trucks off the road.

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 for the same heat.
- cuts creosote build-up in chimneys that helps reduce the risk of fire.
- Reduces particle pollution indoors and out by **70 percent**.

The U.S. Biomass Tax Credit allows a credit up to **\$300** for eligible stoves bought in 2013 and may be retroactive for stoves purchased in 2012. The tax credit expires December 2013.

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 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**.