

# If you can smell it, you're already breathing it.



## Check **your chimney.**

We noticed you had a smoky chimney on

Date.....

Please see the information  
overleaf for ways to reduce  
smoke from your chimney.



**Wood is a natural material, but when burned it produces **particle pollution** that is **harmful to everyone**.**

## **To reduce the harmful effects of wood smoke:**

### **Don't burn rubbish or painted or treated wood.**

Never burn household rubbish, driftwood or painted wood. Most old painted wood is likely to contain lead-based paint, and when burnt can produce poisonous gases.

### **Check your wood is dry by tapping it with a coin.**

Dry wood makes a sharp resonant sound, wet wood makes a dull sound. Freshly cut wood needs to be stored under cover in a dry, ventilated area for eight to twelve months before use. Green or unseasoned wood contains up to 70% water, which causes smoke, not heat and costs you money.

### **Make sure your fire has enough air.**

Open the air controls fully for 5 minutes before and 15 to 20 minutes after loading the heater. Stack wood loosely in your firebox, so plenty of air circulates around it. That way your fire will burn hot and efficiently, rather than smoulder, which causes smoke and air pollution.

### **Don't let your fire smoulder overnight.**

In winter, the highest concentrations of fine particles in the air occur after midnight caused by smouldering heaters overnight.

### **Get your flue checked and cleaned at least once a year by a professional.**

Creosote can build up in the flue, resulting in inefficient burning and increasing the risk of a chimney fire.

**Wood smoke isn't good smoke.**

[epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke](http://epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke)