

The guide to the use of ceramic tile stoves and fireplaces

Drying up the wood stove

A newly built glazed ceramic tile stove or fireplace must be left to dry for 7 days. Both the furnace door and the chimney damper must be fully open. The temperature in the room must be at least 10 °C.

After these 7 days have passed, the stove or a fireplace must be further dried for one-two months (depending on the weather temperature) by burning 4-5 small dry pieces of firewood (4x4 cm size) once a day.

When first lighting a fire in a wood stove or a fireplace, the room where they stand must be kept thoroughly ventilated.

Start with a small fire. Do not use alcohol, petrol or other flammable liquids to light it. The most convenient way to start a fire is to light 3 or 4 slivers of wood with paraffin burner or other type of burner. Study the combustion control of your new wood stove or fireplace.

When you light up the stove or the fireplace for the first time, do not place anything on top of stove – the weight may damage the surface of the stove before it has hardened enough.

For the first few hours maintain only a very small flame in your ceramic tile stove or fireplace; it is recommended to nearly close the air supply valve leaving only a narrow gap. When the firewood in the stove is burning slowly the stove heats up better, the tiles and bricks expand slower and this allows to avoid cracks and deformations. Besides, this helps to remove water from the new construction as there is usually about 200 l of water in a newly built stove or fireplace.

If your fireplace contains a metal capsule, light the fire several times in order to burn out the oil.

Everyday use

Use paper and small dry slivers of wood to start a fire. When the wood catches fire you may add 2-4 average-sized pieces of firewood. Leave the chimney damper and air supply regulator open.

When the first few pieces of wood ignite, fill 2/3 of the furnace space with firewood, close the air supply regulator and let the fire smolder.

If the glass of the furnace door is covered in soot, open the air supply regulator in the door wide enough to intensify the fire and reduce the smoke.

When the whole firewood burns down to ashes you may close the chimney damper but do not fully shut it. Then the warm air will not escape through the chimney but will keep heating your house instead.

Do not allow high flames when using a tile stove or fireplace.

If you have not used a stove or a fireplace for a long time you need to put a rolled up newspaper into a chimney sweeping-hole or directly into the furnace and light it up. This will remove the plug of cold air and water vapour that builds up inside the chimney during long idle periods.

A transitional period of autumn and winter

If the stove was not used for a long time (e.g. in empty house) the chimney and the stove or fireplace itself may be damp. Remove the cold air plug from a chimney with a help of a burning newspaper and start a very small fire.

When you stoke a stove or a fireplace it is essential that you let in as little air as possible through the air supply regulator in the furnace door. That will allow the stove to heat up gradually and evenly. Otherwise the moisture accumulated in the stove or fireplace will not evaporate thoroughly through the chimney and might irreparably damage it.

Firewood

Be careful to use only dry wood for the stove or fireplace. Damp firewood radiates less warmth and rapidly covers the view glass with soot. Moreover, when the firewood is damp, the soot covers the walls of the chimney channel.

The length of the firewood must correspond to the length and width of the furnace of your stove. Large pieces burn slower and more evenly which guarantees steadier and longer lasting warmth. Small pieces ignite and burn out faster which results in sudden and more intense release of heat.

Do not use impregnated or painted wood. Do not burn any waste, especially one of artificial origin, e.g. plastics. Waste contains many hazardous substances which not only damage the stove but are also harmful to the environment.