

Media release



Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000
T (08) 8204 2004
Country areas 1800 623 445

26 June 2018

EPA urges proper use of indoor wood heaters during winter

As winter sets in the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is urging homeowners to be mindful of the impact that smoke from indoor wood heaters can have on neighbours and the environment.

It is estimated that about [14 per cent of households](#) in South Australia use wood as their main source of energy for heating, however solid fuel heaters can be a major source of air pollution when they are poorly designed or not operated correctly.

EPA's Manager Legislation and Policy Steve Mudge said excessive smoke can have an environmental impact and affect people's health.

"Although indoor wood heaters are a comfort during the colder weather, the smoke from these solid fuel heaters can have a detrimental impact on the health of neighbours as well as create an environmental nuisance.

"Wood smoke contains particles that are harmful to you, your family and your neighbours. If you can smell it, you're already breathing it.

"If you are using solid fuel heaters you must ensure they are operated correctly and efficiently and the firewood is fit for purpose when buying.

"Firewood with a moisture content of no higher than 20 percent should be used.

"All solid fuel heaters sold in South Australia must comply with the Australian Standard and cannot emit excessive smoke through a flue or chimney for more than 10 consecutive minutes," he said.

Residents concerned about the impacts of smoke from solid wood heaters can contact their local council.

The *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* came in to effect on 1 July giving Councils more powers to resolve local nuisance issues.

Anyone found selling or installing a non-compliant solid fuel heater face a fine of up to \$4000 or a \$300 expiation fee.

Tips for reducing smoke pollution include:

- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn rubbish, driftwood, painted or treated wood.
- Store firewood somewhere that's dry.
- Keep air vents open for 20 minutes after starting and reloading the fire.
- Check that there is no smoke from the flue 10 minutes after starting the fire.

More information about burning with solid fuel heaters can also be found on the [EPA website](#).

EPA videos

Use your wood heater properly

<https://vimeo.com/271387016>

Wood smoke and your health

<https://vimeo.com/271385912>

Media contact: epamedia@sa.gov.au

Mob: 0439 137 641

Twitter: [@SA_EPA](https://twitter.com/SA_EPA)

<https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>