

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FUEL

As a general rule always choose those fuels recommended by the appliance manufacturer – failure to do so could invalidate the guarantee on a new unit.

In smoke control areas there are Regulations which govern the burning of solid fuels.

Bituminous coal and wood for example, cannot be used unless burnt on certain appliances i.e., those designed to reduce smoke emissions to levels allowed in the Clean Air Act.

The fuels should be stored under cover and kept as dry as possible.

Solid fuel stored in a bunker, or other container, should always be shovelled from the bottom – this reduces fuel breakage caused by ‘digging’ in from the top of the pile.

RECOMMENDED FUELS

Smokeless Fuels for roomheaters and stoves

Ancit, Phurnacite, Taybrite, Surefire, Sunbrite doubles, Maxibrite, Supacite, Coalite Newflame, Anthracite small and large nuts. Homefire and Homefire Ovals are suitable for multifuel stoves. Cosycoke, Supercoke and Pureheat contain petroleum coke and may be used, subject to the appliance manufacturer’s recommendations.

Other fuels

With the exception of gravity feed roomheaters, housecoal is only really suitable for multifuel stoves, subject to the requirements of the Clean Air Act being met. Union Briquettes and wood may be used, but are not authorised smokeless fuels.

Our specialists are always available to give advice on all aspects of solid fuel heating including installation, maintenance and spare parts.

Always buy your fuel from an Approved Coal Merchant.

Other guides in this series on Open Fires and Boilers are available on request.



For further information
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How to get the best out of your

Roomheater or Stove



LOOKING AFTER YOUR ROOMHEATER OR STOVE - SO PRACTICAL

Roomheater or Multi Fuel Stove is a name given to an appliance with a real fire behind a glass door that performs the following:-

- Heats only the room it is in, and is often referred to as a dryback appliance.
- Heats the room, domestic hot water and radiators.
- Gravity-fed roomheater incorporates a hopper, from which fuel is released onto the firebed at a required rate. Solid fuel models are no longer made but there are wood pellet fuelled models now available. The information in this leaflet is however unsuitable for this type of appliance.
- Multi fuel stoves perform the same functions as roomheaters but burn a wider choice of solid fuels and wood.

LIGHTING YOUR ROOMHEATER OR STOVE

To light your appliance, follow these simple instructions.

Using firelighters:

- Cover the grate with a single layer of fuel or leave some remains of a previous fire.
- Place three or four firelighters on crumpled newspaper over cinders or fuel and lay more fuel on top to a depth of about 6 inches.
- Open air control fully.
- Light paper, then close door.
- In 15 to 20 minutes the fuel should be alight. Now, more fuel should be added as high as the front retaining bars and sloping upwards towards the back. Adjust the air control as required. If the appliance has a boiler damper, leave this closed while lighting.

Alternatively, you may prefer to use paper and kindling or an electric firelighter.

If an appliance is fitted with firebars, don't allow the ash to build up and touch them – they will overheat and burn away.

Use the riddling device and a poker to clear ash and clinker that collects above the firebars. The appliance will not operate efficiently if the grate is clogged.

A roomheater or stove can be set to the level of heating you want by adjusting the air control dial. The adjustment should be made in gradual stages. Quick changes up or down, except when setting for banking, may produce clinker or cause the fire to go out.

Never open the bottom ash door and leave the main fire door closed – the intensity of the fire will soon cause damage. Some modern appliances have an interlocking arrangement to prevent this happening.

The throat plate in the roof of a roomheater (and some stoves) should be removed, or lowered down, at least once a month to remove any build up of fly ash or chimney debris.

The main chimney flue should be swept at least once a year or twice if you are burning housecoal or wood. Flue pipes which connect an appliance to the main flue should also be cleaned.

If the appliance incorporates a fan, its blades should be kept free of any fluff build-up.

Cleaning deposits from boiler surfaces will help maintain efficiency.

Refuelling and ashpit doors should be checked periodically for rust and other similar deposits.

Glass doors are easily cleaned by opening the door, allowing it to cool and wiping it clean with a warm wet cloth. Ceramic panels should be cleaned with oven hob cleaner.

Rope seals that are worn, damaged or have become hard should be replaced. Thermostats and dampers should be checked on a regular basis to ensure correct operation.

A fireguard should always be used if children, the elderly or infirm are in the room, never cover a roomheater or dry clothes too close to the appliance.

Do not apply excessive draft stripping to doors and windows, or block air vents – solid fuel appliances need a supply of air to function properly.

If you smell fumes or detect smoke in the room where the appliance is or one adjacent to the chimney, let the fire out and do not use it until it has been checked by a competent engineer. See our safety leaflet for further information.

The information contained in this guide should be read in conjunction with manufacturer's operating instructions.

Whilst roomheaters and multifuel stoves are robust appliances you are advised that having the appliance checked and serviced annually is likely to improve efficiency and maintain safe operation, at the same time prolonging the life of the unit. For further information in respect of service and maintenance, contact the Solid Fuel Association – details on back of leaflet.