

Solid Fuel Appliance Operating & Maintenance Advice Sheet

In order to ensure the safe and efficient operation of your solid fuel appliance and flue system it is important to take care in its operation and maintenance. Full details on suitable fuels to be used and methods of cleaning & maintenance can be found via the Solid Fuel Association website (www.solidfuel.co.uk), the Hetas website (www.hetas.co.uk) or where a Stove is installed, the supplied manual / user guide. Below we have outlined some of the key care and maintenance factors:

Fuel:

- You must ensure that the correct fuel is being used for the appliance in place.
- Wood and logs being burnt should be well-seasoned and preferably have low resin content.
- You should not use wood that has any kind of coating such as varnish or paint.
- You should never use your appliance to burn rubbish / household waste.

General Safety:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions / accredited bodies guidance when using a solid fuel appliance.
- If you smell smoke or fumes entering the room, put the fire out, open the windows and leave the room. Do not relight the fire until the appliance has been checked by a qualified Hetas engineer.

Maintenance & Cleaning:

- Do not allow ash to build up within the appliance, remove it regularly.
- When a stove with a throat plate is installed, this plate should be removed or lowered down once a week to remove any ash & debris.
- Avoid leaving an appliance unattended but where necessary use a suitable spark guard.
- A fire screen should always be used when children are in the room.
- Remember to have your chimney swept by a professional sweep (either a Guild of Master Sweeps or NACS member) AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR if you use smokeless fuel and AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR if you are burning wood or coal. Never light a fire for the first time without having the chimney swept. Use of an appliance without having the chimney swept can lead to blockages in the flue and appliance spillage as well as risk of chimney fire. In the event of a chimney fire you should never re-use the chimney until it has been inspected and passed by a qualified engineer.
- Never use any chemical cleaners or metal scourers for cleaning where a metal liner has been installed.

Additional Information For Chimney Top Fans:

- Where a chimney fan is installed it is essential to leave this running until the fire has completely gone out with NO heat passing into the chimney.
- The fan blades / impellor should be cleaned using a wire brush to remove all tar & debris as well as inspected for its condition at the same intervals as chimney sweeping.