

## **Proper care must be taken with the design and installation of all parts of solid fuel appliances and their hearths and flues**

Building consent is required to install a new or replacement solid fuel heater and manufacturer's recommendations for these appliances must be carefully followed. Any variation must be identified and approved.

The condition and location of adjacent timberwork to the existing chimney needs to be checked when installing a built-in solid fuel appliance into an existing fireplace.

Combustible materials adjacent to these appliances must be protected properly by maintaining clearances or by the use of adequate screens. On no account should clearances to hot surfaces be reduced, protective screens removed or flue shield air spaces blocked.

The existing chimney must be structurally sound and swept before installation, and all cracks/gaps surrounding the area where the heater is to be located are to be filled with an approved sealant eg fire clay, mortar prior to installation.

## **A building consent is required before any fireplace is installed**

To obtain a building consent for a fireplace you will need:

- A building consent application form, fully completed, with application fee attached.
- Two copies of the manufacturer's documentation and installation instructions for the appliance you intend to install.
- Two copies of floor plan showing in which room and exactly where the heating appliance is to be installed and clearance dimensions.
- Hearth, ceiling and roof penetration details.
- Details of the wet back or water booster system if applicable.
- Seismic restraints.
- Smoke alarms (compulsory). (Please show position of smoke alarms on plans)

## **Insist on a fully tested model**

Environmental standards for woodburners applied from 1 September 2005. Those standards do not apply to open fires, multi fuel burners, pellet burners or cooking stoves.

All other woodburners on properties less than 2ha in area must meet the 'clean-air' and 'thermal efficiency' requirements of the new standard. This includes second hand woodburners.

## **Building consent conditions for the installation of second hand solid fuel appliances**

If a second hand woodburner is purchased and installed on a property of lot size less than 2 hectares, it must meet the environmental standard.

New flues are to be provided for all solid fuel appliances.

Re-conditioned or modified appliances are not permitted unless the re-conditioner has obtained a new test report to AS/NZS 2918:2001 or the appliance is installed as an untested appliance under the above standard.

## **Use and maintenance**

Solid fuel appliances must be regularly cleaned and checked for soundness. The best time for such a check is in the autumn, well before heating is required.

# Fireplaces/Solid fuel heating appliances

A solid fuel appliance works best with the fuel that it was designed for. Alternative types of fuel may in some cases be harmful to the appliance.

## Smoke Alarms

Please refer to separate information sheet which details the positions where smoke alarms are to be installed for compliance.

## Legal status

The information contained in this brochure is a guide only and consequently has no legal status. It is recommended that you discuss any matter you are not sure of with council building control officers.

## Further information

The Ministry for the Environment's website has a list of all woodburners that currently meet the standard.

[www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz) Keyword: woodburner



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