

## Burning solid fuel

### Choice of fuel

There are a great many different solid fuels for sale. Your choice will be based on a number of factors, the most important of which will be the type of appliance you use and whether or not you live in a smoke control area.

### Fuels for solid fuel fires

#### Authorised open fire smokeless fuels

Solid smokeless fuels are clean and easy to use and up to a third more heat is obtained than when burning the same weight of Housecoal. Each fuel has different burning characteristics and your local approved coal merchant will be able to advise you on the best option for your fire.

Manufactured open fire smokeless fuels are sold by brand name such as Briteflame, Coalite Ovals, Cosycoke, Cosycoke Briquettes, Ecoal, Excel, Homefire, Homefire Ovals, Multiheat, Newflame, Pureheat and Supertherm ll.

#### Approved Coal Merchants Scheme

When buying solid fuel, the Solid Fuel Association recommends you always use a member of the Approved Coal Merchants Scheme. These merchants are trained, committed to serving the customer and abide by the Coal Trade Code. Contact the Solid Fuel Association for your nearest approved coal merchant or visit [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)

#### Fuels for closed appliances

This category of appliances includes roomheaters, stoves, cookers and freestanding boilers. There are a large variety of appliances available. Most offer efficient space heating whilst others can supply hot water and central heating. Many are classified as 'multi-fuel' and can burn solid fuel or wood, as well as a mixture of both.

## **Naturally smokeless fuel**

Anthracite is a naturally occurring smokeless fuel and is suitable for all closed appliances. It is supplied from South Wales as well as other parts of the world. Anthracite Grains and Beans are mainly used with Gravity Feed Boilers.

## **Manufactured smokeless fuels**

Manufactured fuels are usually sold by brand name. Your local approved coal merchant will be able to offer a selection to suit your appliance and your pocket such as Ancit, Briteheat, Briteflame, Coalite Ovals, Cosycoke, Cosycoke Briquettes, Ecoal, Homefire, Homefire Ovals, Maxibrite, Newflame, Phurnacite, Pureheat, Supacite, Surefire, Sunbrite Doubles, Taybrite, Therma.

## **Housecoal**

The most traditional fuel for open fires is Housecoal. It is available in various sizes to suit your requirements. Housecoal comes from sites in Britain together with some imports from other parts of the world. In addition, there are several briquetted fuels manufactured for open fires such as – Firelite Briketts, Peat Briquettes and Wildfire, plus logs and briquettes made from waste bio-mass materials which are available in many local stores and supermarkets.

## **Smoke Control Legislation**

Many people live in areas covered by the Clean Air Act, particularly in towns and cities. In such places it is an offence to emit dark smoke from a chimney and therefore you should use only an authorised smokeless fuel.

Wood is not an authorised fuel for use in smoke control areas, however you may burn wood on an exempted appliance which has been tested and approved by DEFRA.

Details of approved fuels and exempt appliances can be provided by the Solid Fuel Association or log on to [www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk](http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk)

Information is available from the Solid Fuel Association by phoning 01773 835400 visiting [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk) or email [sfa@solidfuel.co.uk](mailto:sfa@solidfuel.co.uk)

## Safety and advice

- Always use the correct fuel for your appliance. The right fuel will perform better in the appliance for which it was designed to burn.
- Always burn the best quality fuel you can afford. The heat content will be higher and the ash less.
- Use the riddling device and a poker to effectively clear ash and clinker from the grate. The fire will not function to capacity if the grate is clogged. Leaving ashes to accumulate on the grate and in the ash-pan below can result in damage to the fire.
- Have your chimney swept regularly – at least once a year and more frequently if you have an exempt appliance and burn wood.
- Ensure appliances are annually serviced by a qualified engineer and regularly maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use a competent person, for instance a HETAS registered installer when you have a new solid fuel heating fire fitted.
- We provide carbon monoxide detectors which is an alarm to warn you of any potential danger or risk to properties with solid fuel and open flued appliances.

**Please note, although we provide these, we do not carry out any ongoing maintenance on these detectors.**

It is important for your own and your family's health and safety that your chimney is swept and your solid fuel systems serviced every 12 months. It is our duty as your landlord to take all reasonable steps to carry out a safety inspection to your solid fuel appliances.

Your tenancy agreement states that sweeping the chimney is your responsibility and payable by you but we will do this work once every year free of charge. All our employees who do this work are HETAS and NACS registered.

If you live in the Wakefield district you are NOT allowed to burn wood as the area is ruled a Smoke Control Zone, unless you have an exempt appliance which is DEFRA approved, outside this area you need to contact your local authority for confirmation.



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