



WESTERN MASONRY, INC.

HOMEOWNERS SAFETY MANUAL And BURNING GUIDE FOR MASONRY HEATERS

Before using your masonry heater, please read these instructions carefully – failure to do so may bring about potentially hazardous conditions. Points you should know when using your masonry heater.

- A.** USE ONLY WITH DOOR CLOSED.
- B.** DO NOT USE A GRATE OR ANDIRONS.
- C.** IN NEW MASONRY HEATERS THE ENTIRE CHIMNEY INSTALLATION SHOULD BE INSPECTED REGULARLY (ON A MONTHLY BASIS) UNTIL A CLEANING CYCLE IS DETERMINED.
- D.** WHEN CLEANING A CLASS ‘A’ METAL CHIMNEY USE A POLY OR NYLON TYPE BRUSH. DO NOT USE A METAL BRUSH.
- E.** FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS MUST NOT BE USED TO START FIRES.
- F.** WHEN CLEANING THE ASHES OUT OF YOUR MASONRY HEATER, BE SURE AND USE A METAL CONTAINER FOR ASHES AS AN ADDED SAFETY MEASURE. DO NOT STORE ASHES ON COMBUSTIBLE SURFACE.
- G.** MAINTENANCE AND SAFE OPERATIONS ARE THE HOMEOWNERS RESPONSIBILITY.
- H.** INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS AND CO. DETECTORS FOR ADDED PROTECTION.

WARNING:

Before starting the fire, check damper for proper position. On masonry heaters where there is no damper, but an airtight fire door to stop air flow, do not close this type of door until the wood is totally burned and only glowing embers remain. No flames should be visible. Once the airtight (damper) door is closed it should remain closed until the next firing at least 6 hours later (minimum). If this procedure is not followed, a gas explosion can occur, resulting in expensive rebuilding of the heater and possible personal injury. Some masonry heaters have this type of damper/door. If your masonry heater has a combustion air control, never close before fuel is totally consumed.

NOTE: You could help the drying out process by using an electric fan or heater directed into the firebox starting 2 or 3 days after the masonry heater is installed. Leave the damper open fully during dry out and curing/break in period.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wait at least 30 days to start using your new masonry heater. You should have small fires to cure and slowly dry out any moisture present. (This precaution should be taken annually at the start of every heating season although it can be 8 to 10 small fires (one-third of full load for each fire) and not the 28 to 37 day break in sequence described below).

WARNING: DO NOT EXCEED 10 PERCENT (3 TO 4 POUNDS) OF FULL LOAD (30 TO 40 POUNDS) ON THE FIRST FIRE. Then increase load by ONE-HALF POUND for each consecutive fire. Never exceed more than 2 fires per day with a minimum of 8 to 12 hours separation but no more than 24 hours between fires during the break in period. Continue this gradual wood load increase until you reach the 100 percent maximum that the masonry heater was designed for, this should take approximately 28 to 37 days. If during this break-in period you notice moisture (damp areas on surface or sweat appearing in mortar joints) skip 2 days (the only exception to the 24 hour maximum rule) to avoid a steam explosion, then start the break in period/procedure over from the beginning. During the first 4 to 6 days, areas of the heater may lose their cold damp feeling and start to feel close to room temperature but you should not feel any heat on the surface during the first 12 to 15 fires (6 to 8 days). If you do, you may be over firing.

START FIRE	<u>30# LOAD</u>		<u>40# LOAD</u>	
	7 AM WOOD LOAD	7 PM WOOD LOAD	7AM WOOD LOAD	7PM WOOD LOAD
Day 1	3#	3 1/2#	4#	4 1/2#
Day 2	4#	4 1/2#	5#	5 1/2#
Day 3	5#	5 1/2#	6#	6 1/2#
Day 4	6#	6 1/2#	7#	7 1/2#
Day 5	7#	7 1/2#	8#	8 1/2#
Day 6	8#	8 1/2#	9 #	9 1/2#
Day 7	9#	9 1/2#	10#	10 1/2#
Day 8	10#	10 1/2#	11#	11 1/2#
Day 9	11#	11 1/2#	12#	12 1/2#
Day 10	12#	12 1/2#	13#	13 1/2#
Day 11	13#	13 1/2#	14#	14 1/2#
Day 12	14#	14 1/2#	15#	15 1/2#
Day 13	15#	15 1/2#	16#	16 1/2#
Day 14	16#	16 1/2#	17#	17 1/2#
Day 15	17#	17 1/2#	18#	18 1/2#
Day 16	18#	18 1/2#	19#	19 1/2#
Day 17	19#	19 1/2#	20#	20 1/2#
Day 18	20#	20 1/2#	21#	21 1/2#
Day 19	21#	21 1/2#	22#	22 1/2#
Day 20	22#	22 1/2#	23#	23 1/2#
Day 21	23#	23 1/2#	24#	24 1/2#
Day 22	24#	24 1/2#	25#	25 1/2#
Day 23	25#	25 1/2#	26#	26 1/2#
Day 24	26#	26 1/2#	27#	27 1/2#
Day 25	27#	27 1/2#	28#	28 1/2#
Day 26	28#	28 1/2#	29#	29 1/2#
Day 27	29#	29 1/2#	30#	30 1/2#
Day 28	30#	FULL LOAD	31#	31 1/2#
Day 29			32#	32 1/2#
Day 30			33#	33 1/2#
Day 31			34#	34 1/2#
Day 32			35#	35 1/2#
Day 33			36#	36 1/2#
Day 34			37#	37 1/2#
Day 35			38#	38 1/2#
Day 36			39#	39 1/2#
Day 37			40#	FULL LOAD

THE HEATER DAMPER, although normally closed after a fire to trap and store heat created by the fire to be released slowly back into the living space, SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED DURING THE BREAK IN PERIOD (28 to 37 days). The principle of the break in period is to slowly evaporate all the moisture trapped inside the unit during construction and to allow the unit to expand and contract slowly to minimize the chance of cracking. The damper must be left open during the break in period so the evaporated moisture dispelled by the fire will escape up the chimney and not get trapped again in the unit which would be the case if the damper were closed.

NOTE: First open the damper. It is not a bad idea to check draft with a single match held at the lintel. If it is drafting into the room, turn off any fans or open a window or door for a brief time. When chimney is drafting up properly, there should be no smoke back or spillage problems. On outside chimneys or new masonry heaters with first startup fires, it may be necessary to heat the

flue via the cleanout at the chimney base. Some basement masonry heaters may have a bypass damper, which should be open for start up to preheat flue and enhance draft.

It is common to experience more smoke and a slight creosote film develop in firebox, smoke channels and on door glass during the break in period. The masonry heat is designed to burn most efficiently with a full load of wood. By burning small loads (which is the case during the break in period) the firebox area doesn't get to a temperature that will ignite the airborne particulates before they escape out the chimney or cling to the masonry walls i.e. creosote residue. After you have reached the normal operating full load, 30 to 40 pounds, (and subsequent 1200 to 1500 degree fire temperatures) the creosote will rapidly burn off and will no longer be a problem. However, it is recommended that you clean your door glass on a daily basis to eliminate a buildup of ash and creosote oils. Clean glass just before starting a fire when the door is at its coolest to avoid possible glass damage from excessive thermal shock and avoid burning yourself on hot surfaces.

2. **After the break-in period, try a top down burn.** (A clean burn start up procedure-yes, just the opposite of what we are used to.)

Place one piece of wood approximately 2" x 2" in diameter on bottom parallel to door.

Crisscross three pieces of wood approximately 4" to 5" in diameter on top of the first piece (log cabin style with grain end facing door).

Lay two pieces approximately 3" to 4" in diameter on top of the second layer, but parallel to the first layer. This will be approximately 20 to 26 pounds of base wood (assuming a medium to large heater).

Next, crumple two or three pages of newspaper and place on top of third layer. Using 3 to 4 pounds of small ½" to 1" in diameter kindling, crisscross the kindling on top of paper fairly close together allowing enough room for air flow (log cabin style).

Using one full page newspaper, make a torch approximately 23" to 28" long. Light torch and hold up flue. This will enhance the draft. When the torch burns down, use it as the match to start the fire. You will also find that wood laid crisscross will produce more heat than layered wood placed parallel to one another.

3. After the first start up phase, larger wood may be used keeping in mind the crisscross (log cabin style) gives more heat. Maximum wood size recommended is 6" to 7" in diameter. All wood should have one or more split sides (no rounds).
4. On smaller fireboxes, anything less than 18" x 18", a Tee Pee style fire works best. Stand wood on end using smaller pieces – i.e. cut log cabin style wood as described above into ½ or 1/3 of its size. Stand wood in rear of firebox and kindle the front and top for best results. Maximum fuel load usually 12 to 20 pounds.

After the fire has burn down to just a very few embers or is completely out close chimney damper and if installed the combustion air supply damper to stop the air flow thru the heater, trapping the heat to be released slowly into the living space thru radiant heat for 8 to 24 hours.

5. Your masonry heater will burn virtually creosote free when using well seasoned (15 to 20 percent) dry wood of proper size. Only through your own neglect will you ever experience creosote buildup. If you discover creosote in your flue, immediately cease to use your present fuel. Have your chimney cleaned if heavy deposit has resulted and then use only well seasoned dry wood. For your own safety, remember only you can prevent a hazardous situation from developing.

DO NOT IMMEDIATELY RELOAD (ONE FIRE RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER) IF MORE HEAT IS NEEDED IN A 24-HOUR CYCLE. WAIT 8 TO 12 HOURS THEN HAVE A SECOND FIRE, OR 3 FIRES IN A DAY – ONE EVERY 8 HOURS.

6. Remember to clean and inspect your heater annually (minimum) as well as the flue. It is recommended that you have a chimney cap installed for rain and snow protection. It is recommended that when not in use you leave the damper in the open position (or remove is possible) as not to freeze (rust) closed. Also, remove all ashes at the end of the heating season as they draw dampness that is harmful to the metal and masonry parts, and may cause an undesirable odor.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
WESTERN MASONRY INC,
(425) 485-4873**

**WARNING – SPECIAL NOTE:
YOUR WARRANTY WILL BE VOID IF YOU USE YOUR NEW HEATER TO DRY
OUT AN UNFINISHED NEW HOME UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**



WESTERN MASONRY, INC.

16315 SMOKEY POINT BLVD

MARYSVILLE, WA 98271

360-659-0100

FAX 360-659-0102

EMAIL: INFO@WESTERNMASONRY.NET

WEBSITE: WWW.WESTERNMASONRY.NET

