

BURNING TECHNIQUE FOR WOOD BURNING STOVES

(These are suggested steps, *always* read and follow your manual)

BREAK-IN FIRES

- A. Open the stove damper, and open the primary air control fully. Open the combustor air control two turns. Other stoves may vary.
- B. Lay some crumpled newspapers in the stove. Place six or eight pieces of dry kindling split to a finger-width size on the paper, and on the kindling lay two or three larger sticks of split dry wood approximately 1-2" (25-30mm).
DO NOT USE CHEMICALS OR FLUIDS TO START THE FIRE. DO NOT BURN GARBAGE OR FLAMMABLE FLUIDS SUCH AS GASOLINE, NAPHTHA, OR ENGINE OIL. Also, never use gasoline-type lantern fuel, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, or similar liquids to start or "freshen up" a fire in this heater. Keep all such liquids well away from the heater while it is in use.
- C. Light the newspaper and close the door. Within 10-15 minutes the fire should be well established and you may gradually build it up by adding a few sticks at a time of a progressively larger size. Continue the build-up until you have a live coal bed 3"-4" (150-200mm) thick.

REPAIR AIR LEAKS TO PREVENT OVERHEATING

Adjust the door latch. It is important that the doors close tightly when the handle is in the closed position.

TEST AND REPAIR THE DOOR GASKETS

If the door will not tighten sufficiently with additional turning of the handle, try "adjusting" the gasket in the area needing attention. Pack more cement or a smaller diameter gasket into the channel beneath the gasket to shim it so that the main gasket is raised and makes contact with the door frame.

REPAIR MISSING CEMENT IN SEAMS

The cement in the stove seams may deteriorate over time and fall out in places. Just as with the stove doors, it is necessary to keep the same seals in good condition. Spot-fix with furnace cement sell is visibly deteriorated. Allow 24 hours for the new cement to dry after "washing down" seams.

CARE OF THE CATALYTIC COMBUSTOR (not on all stoves)

The combustor should be visually inspected "in place" for fly ash accumulation and physical damage three times per year. Actual removal of the combustor is not recommended unless a more detailed inspection is warned because of diminished performance as outlined below.

WHEN TO SUSPECT A COMBUSTOR PROBLEM

The first is to monitor the temperatures on the probe thermometer. A properly functioning combustor should operate regularly on the range of 800-1200 degrees F. (430-650 C.) Combustor temperatures consistently less than 800 degrees F (430 C.) merit a closer examination of the combustor.

Before replacing the stovetop, check the damper.

If the gasket is intact, but the damper isn't locking tightly, adjustment should be made. Also check the gasket that seals the top plate. NOTE: DUTCHWEST ONLY.

Always establish a bed of hot coals before closing any damper.

This may take 1 hour or longer on a cold start.

Proper Loading

When reloading your stove in the morning after an all night burn, open the damper and the air control, load a few pieces of wood close the door and allow the stove to burn for at least 15 minutes in the open position. This will help remove the small amount of build up that occurs as the fire dies down through the night or day.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE-AND AVOID-CREOSOTE

Inspect the chimney and chimney connector at least twice monthly, and clean if necessary.

- A. When inspecting the interior of the wood stove there should not be any black tar or crisp flakes on the door or side walls always should remain brown in color.
- B. When you first begin using the stove, check sale for creosote-a substance that can look like either thick tar or black, crisp flakes.
- C. During the warmer months when creosote is more likely to result from cooler-burning fires, weekly cleaning may be necessary.
- D. Maintenance Schedule

Daily: Ashes should be removed before they reach the top of the ash pan. Check at least once a day.

Two Months: Inspect the catalytic combustor. Clean if necessary. Check door handle to be sure it is working properly. Gasketing becomes compressed after a period of time. Adjust handle tightness if necessary. Check leg bolts and heat shield screws, tightness if necessary.

Yearly Spring Cleaning: Check Gasketing for wear, and replace if necessary. Remove ashes from the ash pan and replace with a moisture absorbing material (such as kitty litter) to keep the interior of the stove dry. Inspect and clean the refractory package. Clean the dust from the inner sides of bottom, rear or pipe heat shields if your stove is equipped with them. Clean surfaces are better heat reflectors than dirty surfaces. Touch up the black paint.