



wildsight golden

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For Immediate Release

Clean Burning Wood Stoves

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Golden residents live in a gorgeous mountain valley. Unfortunately, this also means that air pollutants can accumulate where we live, especially during the winter when temperature inversions trap cold, calm air in the valley bottom. In a series of articles over the next few months, we will explore air quality issues affecting Golden and Area A, and offer actions that individuals in our community can take to help clear the air we breathe.

Wood smoke is one important contributor to poor air quality in Golden in winter. With access to plentiful sources of firewood, many of us burn wood to heat our homes. However, when wood is burned inefficiently it produces excess smoke – indoors and out. Smoke is unburned fuel. This means less heat is being generated, and more wood is burned than necessary.

Wood smoke creates air pollution that is hazardous to everyone's health, particularly children, the elderly and those with heart and lung disease. The haze created by excessive smoke also makes the community unattractive and can make outdoor activities unpleasant or even impossible for some residents and visitors.

What can be done?

When you have a good hot fire burning in your wood stove, there should be no visible smoke coming from your chimney. Smoke is a sign that the fire is starved for oxygen, the wood is too moist to burn efficiently, and/or the chimney has inadequate draw.

One step is to ensure your firewood is properly dried with less than 20% moisture, and stored to keep it dry. You can borrow a moisture meter from the Golden and District Air Quality Committee. Local retailers also offer clean burning fire logs made from waste wood. Only burn firewood – never burn garbage or wood treated in any way.

Keeping your chimney clean will also ensure the best draw and help prevent chimney fires. A local chimney sweep can provide service and advice.

Older wood stoves cannot burn as efficiently as newer models that are CSA/EPA certified. Higher efficiency stoves can burn up to 1/3 less wood for the same amount of heat and reduce emissions up to 90% - but only if burned properly. If you replace your old stove with a heat pump, wood pellet stove or CSA/EPA certified wood stove, you benefit yourself and your whole community.

Money back when you exchange your stove!

Take advantage of the incentives while they last! Wildsight Golden can currently offer a limited number of rebates. Golden residents are eligible for a \$500-\$1000 rebate funded by the BC Lung Association depending on what you are exchanging your old woodstove for. Residents must first contact a local certified installer such as Parky's Heating & Cooling or Kardash Plumbing & Heating LTD. Your old stove must be removed and destroyed and a certified wood stove, pellet stove or heat pump installed. Documentation will be required prior to issuing the rebate.

For more information about the wood stove exchange rebates, air quality issues, or to find out how to join the Golden and District Air Quality Committee, please see <https://wildsight.ca/branches/golden/air-quality/>.

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