

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY ABOUT WOOD HEATER SMOKE

“Woodfire heater smoke contains harmful pollutants known as particulate matter that are easily breathed in and enter the body via the lungs. The small particles or PM2.5 in woodfire smoke are especially dangerous, and there is no safe level of exposure to PM2.5 – this means even low levels of PM2.5 can trigger asthma symptoms and cause health impacts.” (Asthma Australia)

“Smoke from wood heaters is a major cause of air pollution. Not only is a smoking fire wasting your money, but the air pollution it causes can also affect our health. Wood smoke contains a number of noxious gases (including carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and a range of organic compounds, some of which are toxic or carcinogenic) and fine particles, which go deep into the lungs. If you can see or smell smoke from your wood heater then you are causing a problem for yourself, your family and your neighbours.” NSW EPA

“Wood smoke shares many of the same toxic chemical compounds as tobacco smoke, but evidence suggests it may be even more harmful. A growing body of research clearly shows that wood smoke pollution increases the risk of serious health outcomes including asthma, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, and dementia. As a society, we made a choice that people must not be exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke against their will. Given what we now know, it is time to extend this attitude to wood smoke.” (Doctors and Scientists Against Woodsmoke Pollution)

“One new technology wood burning stove, manufactured to the highest Australian standard puts out more particles in a single day than does a car running for 15 thousand kilometres. Yes, woodfires are polluting and damages people lungs and increases health costs.” (Dr Karl Kruszelnicki 14 April 2020)

“It has been demonstrated that burning 10 kilograms of wood (an average day) in a modern, low-emitting wood heater can produce around 15 grams of “particulate matter”. By contrast, a truck travelling on congested urban roads can produce just 0.03 grams of particulate matter per kilometre travelled. A truck would therefore have to travel 500km in heavy traffic – roughly the distance from Melbourne to Mildura – to produce the same particulate matter emissions as one average day of using a wood heater.” (The Conversation)

THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL FOR FINE PARTICLE AIR POLLUTION.