

I like wood heaters, but not in suburbs

There's been much debate about the pros and cons of wood heaters in the ACT. Take an evening walk around your neighbourhood and you'll soon find out where they are. A recent letterbox flyer provided good advice to owners. One point being to buy/use seasoned wood. Good advice, but therein lies the problem, as most suppliers in the ACT region don't sell properly seasoned wood.

It takes nearly a year for wood to truly season after its cut. In that time, it shrinks in size as it dries out, takes on a silver/grey look and will ring like iron bars when knocked together. Fresh-cut wood is full of colour and moisture, which affects the burn quality and will have a heavy thud sound when knocked.

I lived on a country property before moving to Canberra. I was lucky to have the space to have wood delivered and piled in a paddock for next year's use, with the previous year's delivery silvered off. Most Canberrans don't have this luxury in their yards, so there's no scope for seasoning delivered wood.

Unseasoned wood produces a less-efficient burn with more emissions. I actually like wood heaters, but not in a suburban setting.

Just as the ACT Government is promoting the move away from the use of gas in homes, so too should new build codes not permit wood heating.

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