

Maintenance of Solid Fuel Fires



To ensure the safety and wellbeing of you, your family and all those visiting your home, it is essential that solid fuel fires are maintained regularly.

Are you a Carmarthenshire County Council tenant?

We carry out regular maintenance of all coal fired appliances. This includes sweeping the chimney and servicing the fire and making sure it is in good working order.

It is vitally important that you allow our staff and approved contractors to have access to your home to undertake such maintenance. Failure to allow us entry may result in potentially dangerous faults or maintenance requirements being left unidentified.

An appointment will be arranged so that we can call at a convenient time for you. Please be at home to allow our operatives in at the pre-arranged date and time. If you need to re-arrange the appointment, please let us know as far in advance as possible.

Whether you are a council tenant, or own your home, if you have a solid fuel fire installed, it is essential that you:

- ✓ Clean the throat plate and boiler flue way every 14 days
- ✓ Clean them after heavy rain and strong winds (as soot and dust could fall and block the throat plate)

If you are a council tenant and are having difficulty in cleaning the throat plate or you need advice, please call our maintenance department on 01267 234567.

How to use your fire safely

- ✓ Remember to check that the throat plate is clean 24 hours after the chimney has been swept. Check again after a week
- ✓ Remove/lower and clean the throat plate whenever you are about to freshly light the fire to remove any ash and debris
- ✓ Remember to check and empty the ash pan at least once a day. Do not allow ash to build up

- ✓ Use the correct fuel as recommended by your fuel merchant and stove manufacturer
- ✓ If logs are to be burnt, ensure they are well seasoned and dry and with a low resin content (i.e. not cedar or pine) and never burn wood that is painted or varnished as this will cause damage to the flue
- ✓ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for operating, maintaining and cleaning the stove
- ✗ Never use your fire to burn household rubbish
- ✗ Don't smother the fire-bed entirely when putting on coal as this could cause burning problems
- ✗ Don't seal off room ventilators, the fire needs fresh air to burn safely
- ✗ Don't leave an open fire without putting the fireguard around it



IF YOU SMELL FUMES...

If you do smell fumes or you feel unusually faint and have started to suffer with headaches, this may be due to the presence of the gas **CARBON MONOXIDE** which can be fatal.

- **Leave the room as soon as you can** - do not stay in the room any longer than necessary
- Open all the doors and windows
- Let the fire burn out - do not relight the fire
- Call 999 for help

If you are a council tenant and need an emergency repair, call 0800 0851 233

REMEMBER - CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS!

Don't put it off... regular servicing saves lives!

Produced by Carmarthenshire County Council's Property Services department