

The wild weather and winter chill has seen us all reaching for the heat pump controller or the firefighters. To help maintain healthy air quality standards, Council's smoke patrolers are out morning and night checking for smokey chimneys.

If the smoke patroler spots a chimney smoking for more than 15 minutes after lighting or more than five minutes during each successive hour of operation (to allow for adding wood), they will leave educational material in your mailbox letting you know what steps you can take to prevent your chimney smoking.

You'll also receive a follow up visit when you can ask any questions and get advice on how to run your woodburner efficiently.

While we prefer to take an educational approach, we can impose fines for where steps are not taken to stop the chimney smoking.

If you notice a chimney smoking for a long time or repeatedly then you can report it to our pollution hotline 0800 NO POLLUTE.

If you are worried that your own chimney is smoking, and you're not sure why, check out:

nelson.govt.nz/burn-smoke-free



#BEAT AIR POLLUTION

Wednesday 5 June was World Environment Day, and the United Nations ran a promotion calling countries around the world to beat air pollution (#BeatAirPollution).

In New Zealand, monitoring results collated by Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA) show air quality has improved over the past 10 years, but there is still more that communities and households can do.

In October last year, Stats NZ and the Ministry for the Environment released Our Air 2018, a report on New Zealand's air quality. The report confirmed burning wood and coal for home heating in winter is the leading cause of poor air quality in many places.

Weather also plays a role in air quality. Nelson's still conditions and cold temperatures effectively trap air pollutants. This effect is compounded by higher emissions on cold evenings when people are more likely to keep warm by burning wood and driving instead of walking or biking.

You can see the latest monitoring results at lawa.org.nz/explore-data/nelson-region/air-quality.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO #BEATAIRPOLLUTION AND STILL KEEP WARM?

This winter, you can do your bit.

- Use clean heating: To improve air quality use clean home heating appliances, e.g. heat pumps, pellet burners, or ultra-low emission burners are better alternatives.
- Be a Bright Burner: It's important that if burning wood, the wood is dry seasoned and non-treated. Buy firewood from an approved Good Wood supplier and follow the burn bright guidelines for a smoke free fire. nelson.govt.nz/burn-bright.

- Don't burn rubbish: Plastic, painted or treated timber or any other form of toxic waste will contribute to air pollution.
- Don't burn outdoors: Outdoor burning is not allowed, and may result in a fine. The use of braziers is only permitted between September and April, so don't use them during the winter months when they will add to air pollution.
- Be a helpful neighbour: If you see excessive air pollution that doesn't look quite right, contact us at 0800 NO POLLUTE and we'll look into it for you.

nelson.govt.nz/burn-bright

lawa.org.nz/explore-data/nelson-region/air-quality

HOW TO LIGHT YOUR FIRE

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1 Leave a thin bed of ash in the bottom of the firebox
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2 Use lots of well crunched up newspaper as a base
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3 Place a good number of small pieces of dry, split kindling on top of the paper
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4 Wait until the kindling is burning well before adding more wood
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5 Don't damp the fire down until it is burning well
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6 Go outside and check your chimney - you should see a heat haze but no smoke.