

## WHO HAS THE BEST LITTLE WOODSHED?

Our recent “Best Little Woodshed” competition highlighted some great ideas for woodsheds.

We had everything from custom built to artistic to using materials that would otherwise go to waste. Judging is underway and the winners will be announced in Our Nelson on 22 March. The competition highlighted the importance of getting your wood in before autumn, and storing it properly so that it is nice and dry when the time comes to burn it.

Some of the great ideas we’ve seen in competition entries:

- Making the wood shed on castors so that it can be moved out of the way once empty
- Using large recycled plastic containers with the front and back cut out and holes drilled for ventilation to store small amounts of wood at the back door
- Stacking the wood artistically so it becomes a feature
- Using existing passageways and covered areas as wood storage space
- Building the floor of the woodshed off the ground to allow air flow beneath.



## WHAT’S THE BEST WOOD FOR BURNING?

Firstly always source your wood from a Good Wood supplier ([nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz), search term = good wood).

Soft woods and medium-density woods like pine and macrocarpa are faster drying, and can be ready to burn in around 6–12 months, but burn rapidly. This means regularly adding wood to keep a cosy blaze going.

‘Old man pine,’ from trees aged 30 years or more, is much more resinous and denser than ordinary pine so it burns for longer and puts out more heat.

Hard woods such as gum and manuka take longer to dry – up to 18 months – but they make a better fire as they burn slowly and give off

more heat. They are usually more expensive to buy.

Generally speaking, woods high in resin content (pine, spruce, fir) are best mixed with harder woods to prevent the build-up of deposits of creosote in the chimney.

Use soft woods like pine for kindling and to get the fire going. Once the fire is burning well with a bed of hot embers, you can then start adding hard woods.

Remember: Never burn treated timber or painted wood, plastics, rubbish or glossy magazines.

WOOD	THERMAL VALUE	BURN DURATION
Beech	Hot	Long
Chestnut	Hot	Long
Douglas Fir	Hot	Long
Eucalypt	Hot	Long
Gorse	Very hot	Very long
Kanuka	Very hot	Long
Macrocarpa	Hot	Medium
Poplar	Medium	Medium
Radiata Pine	Medium	Short
Sycamore	Medium	Medium
Tree lucerne	Very hot	Very long
Wattle	Very hot	Very long
Willow	Medium	Medium

## SAVE MONEY AND HEAT WITH A HEAT SAVER FLUE

If you are installing a new woodburner or replacing your flue, consider using a heat saver flue.

All flues require a cooling air flow around the flue casings to ensure they do not set fire to the building. The way the flue is cooled can have a dramatic effect on the efficiency of your woodburner. The difference in cost between a heat saver flue and a traditional one is minimal.

### STANDARD FLUES

Traditional flue systems draw the cooling air from inside the living room. This results in large volumes of warm air from the room being drawn up between the flue skins and expelled to the outside.

Laboratory testing has shown that up to 450 litres of heated air a minute is drawn out of the home. On a cold winter’s night this hugely inefficient system can empty a whole room full

of hot air every hour. This lost air is replaced with cold outside air drawn into the house through gaps and cracks.

### ECO OR HEAT SAVER TYPE FLUES

An “Eco/Heat Saver” type flue system draws the cooling air from either the roof space cavity or from outside the house, instead of from inside the home as a conventional flue system does.

This ensures heat produced by the wood fire remains in the room, vastly reducing heat loss from your home.

An added bonus is that you will use much less wood and still have a toasty warm home. Less wood for more heat also equates to less harmful pollution into the air outside your home.

