

BE A BRIGHT BURNER

Are you a Bright Burner or a Damp Squib? Find out by taking our online quiz at nelson.govt.nz/bright-burner. If you came out as a damp squib then here are some things you can do to make sure your fire burns bright and warm for the winter ahead.

- Buy your wood early from a good wood supplier.
- Store it under cover in a woodshed with good ventilation.
- Use plenty of dry kindling.
- Operate the wood burner with the air control fully open.
- Vary the room temperature by adding more wood or letting the fire die back.
- Never fill the firebox more than half full.

- Check your chimney 15 minutes after putting on more wood – if it's still smoking you may need to review your wood burning practices for a more efficient fire.

You can also have a look at the video 'Burn Smoke Free' at nelson.govt.nz/burn-smoke-free to get more ideas on the best way to master your machine and have a warm dry home over winter.



nelson.govt.nz/bright-burner

nelson.govt.nz/burn-smoke-free

10 TIPS FOR REDUCING YOUR POWER BILL

- 1 Ensure you're on the right electricity plan. If you're using less than 8000kw of power a year, it's cheaper to be on a low user plan. Use tools such as whatsmynumber.org.nz to check you're getting the best deal.
- 2 Use the free energy from the sun to dry clothes on an outside line, instead of in an electric dryer. You could save around \$200 annually (and it costs nothing to do this).
- 3 Run your heat pump on the most effective settings and clean the filter regularly to ensure it runs properly.
- 4 Change to energy-saving light bulbs. A change from eight old standard lightbulbs to LED bulbs saves up to \$200 a year.
- 5 Switching off your old second fridge could save up to \$300 annually.
- 6 Check your shower usage. If the water from it fills a bucket in less than a minute you could save around \$150 annually by changing to an efficient showerhead. Keep your showers short – in a household of three, each extra minute of shower time costs about \$80 annually.
- 7 Turning off appliances left on standby saves around \$125 annually.
- 8 Washing your clothes in cold water rather than warm water could save \$65 annually.
- 9 Stop heat escaping, and draughts, with DIY double glazing and good thick curtains.
- 10 Buy energy efficient appliances.

Master your machine



If you've got a woodburner in your living room, you'll want to make sure it's all tuned up and ready to rumble for the colder weather. Just like you give your car a WOF every year, you need to make sure your woodburner is operating safely and efficiently so that you get the best performance from it.


The best way to check performance is to get a flue and woodburner check from a qualified chimney sweep or wood burner supplier. Things that might indicate a problem are:

- Broken fire bricks
- Baffle plate damage
- Worn or split door seals
- Air control knobs not sliding freely
- Blocked flue caused by debris, build-up of residue or bird nests
- Smoke leaking into the room when you light the fire.

TOP TIP

The money you spend on a wood burner check and flue clean will be recovered by having a more efficient woodburner.

HOW TO LIGHT YOUR FIRE

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