



FREESTANDING WOOD STOVE

BUYERS GUIDE

Freestanding wood stoves can bring a timeless elegance and warmth to virtually any room; matching almost any style from contemporary-minimalist, to the warmth and comfort of rustic or traditional design. You don't need a fireplace to enjoy the warmth and comfort of a wood fire. The powerful heat from a wood stove radiates from all sides of the unit as well as the top, sending warmth in all directions.

Benefits

The biggest advantage homeowners have with a wood burning stove is the quality of heat the unit gives off. Woods stoves operate on the principal of radiant heat, which warms an area faster and more efficiently than warm air being blown through a home's vent system.

1. Placement flexibility

A wood stove can be installed virtually anywhere in the home, providing there is a way to run a vent pipe to the outside of the house. This means you can zone-heat any room or space. A few well-placed stoves can almost completely replace a central heating system.

2. Economical heating

If you have ever looked into purchasing a wood burning stove, the first thing you will likely to take notice of is the initial cost outlay. It may seem daunting at first but keep in mind wood burning stoves can be significantly more cost effective than central heating. Wood is an inexpensive fuel source. It costs less per BTU than oil, gas or electricity. Homeowners who practice strategic zone heating in their homes can save hundreds of dollars in utility bills each year.

3. No electricity needed

If you live in a region that has occasional power outages throughout the winter, you know how valuable a heat source that is 100% self-contained can be. With a dependable wood stove, you'll stay warm around the clock, regardless of your home's supply of gas or electricity.

4. Cooking convenience

An overlooked benefit of wood burning stoves is the fact that some models double as a stove top. With a little practice in temperature adjustment and cookware placement, you'll find that the top surface of your wood stove is perfect for cooking and warming an endless variety of

foods and meals.

5. Compliment your décor

Finally, even with all the other advantages, you want a wood stove that looks nice in whatever room you place it. That's no problem. Modern wood burning stoves are available in many different styles, sizes and finishes, making it easy to find one that's a perfect accent for your home style and décor.

6. Stand up Against Energy Providers

A freestanding wood burner is delightfully, and somewhat surprisingly, beneficial to one's pocket. It is said that you can save up to 50% on energy bills by opting to use a wood burning stove. After all, isn't it much nicer to be self-sufficient, as opposed to pandering to your energy providers crippling demands?

7. Home Resale Value

You may intend on staying in your home for your entire life, but situations and needs can change and should the time come that you decide to sell your home, you will of course want to maximize the income from that sale. Items such as refurbishment to bathrooms and kitchens are among the top home value increasers you can do, but more and more frequently nowadays homes that have a wood stove already installed is a substantial draw and a true way to increase home value. When a potential buyer sees a wood stove, they understand the family will always have heat no matter if the power grid goes down and that is highly valuable.

There is also The "Green" aspects of it. Today our priorities have changed, we want more from our heating systems than functionality alone. One such priority is a home that is more environmentally friendly. Green technology is much more than a trend, it's a must and more customers than ever are becoming conscious of the negative impact running our homes can have on the planet. The renewable resource properties of a wood burning stove generates a significant following from the green energy conscious community adding remarkable interest for homes with wood burning stoves as a primary heating source.

And last but not least is the aesthetics aspect. Part of what makes a wood burning stove so valuable is not merely functionality, but the fact that today's wood stoves are so beautifully designed they naturally become centerpieces of the home. New designs include a range of various colors that work with a variety of different décor options and even different shapes and sizes are available as well. Gone are the days where a wood burning stove is a huge black box of metal taking up a significant portion of the room. New stoves are sleek, fashionable, and more versatile than ever before.

How long do they last?

Wood burning stoves are extremely durable. But it is also true that some last longer than the others.

How long your wood burning stove will last depends above all on the following factors:

- **Quality of material and manufacturing.** Obviously, wood burning stoves that are made from the highest quality metal according to the best manufacturing practices will last longer than their cheap counterparts. (Ex: TSC, Home Depot, Lowe's). These in best case last only a few years, some lasting as little as 2 to 3 years. Quality wood burning stoves, on the other hand, easily last a lifetime.

- **Proper operation.** If you want your wood burning stove to keep you warm for decades, it is crucial to operate it properly. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and burn exclusively seasoned logs.

- **Maintenance.** Wood burning stoves are very undemanding when it comes to maintenance. There are, however, a few chores which are of key importance if you want your stove to last. You are highly recommended to clean your stove as recommended by the manufacturer, both inside and outside. You are also advised to have your stove inspected by an expert at least once per year to make sure that it is in top condition. If there are any signs of damage or problems, don't postpone the repair. By having the problem fixed immediately, you will both avoid a potentially costly repair and extend the stove's durability.

You are recommended not to make any compromises when it comes to quality when buying a new wood burning stove. It may be true that we are living in very uncertain times and that every dollar that is saved matters, however, you won't save any money by choosing a cheaply made stove. Not only you will have to replace it relatively soon but you will also spend a little fortune on installation. In addition, you will probably burn more logs because cheap stoves aren't as efficient.

Buying at Big Box Stores or Online Vs. A Professional Dealer (us)

In an effort to deliver quality products, service, and safety, we receive our family of products exclusively through authorized and trained distributors. Occasionally, individuals will attempt to sell products online without the consent of the manufacturer. Most manufacturers do not authorize the sale of products online. Here are a few things to consider if you are contemplating a Big Box Store purchase of a quality hearth product:

Use a Trusted Dealer- First things first, unless you are super knowledgeable when it comes to wood stoves, a good dealer can be a great resource. I'm not talking an "expert" at a big box store, unless they have been in the business for a number of years, heats their own home with wood, and can show you a showroom full of lit models. Unless they burn regularly, it's very hard for them to learn the ins and outs from a textbook! Your trusted dealer will help you identify trusted brands. We only recommend brands that routinely honor warranties, have been around for years and have replacement parts on the ready. It's hard to trust a brand that has only been around a few years because you have no idea how their stoves will hold up long-term. A trusted dealer is a must!

Warranty - Most manufacturers do not warranty products sold outside of an authorized dealer net

work, nor will they warranty service work on the product that is performed by anyone other than an authorized dealer.

Maintenance & Service are Non-Existent- Our professionals are trained to evaluate your specific needs and suggest to you the products that will best meet those needs. When buying products at these Big Box Stores, you are more than likely purchasing products that are not ideal for your situation, not quality made, and have no tech or service department if something goes wrong and, as a result, will be much more costly than you anticipated. You can purchase a stove at a Big Box Store, but when you call or stop in because you need it cleaned or serviced you will be left unsatisfied. They do not service or maintain the units they sell. Nor do they have ANY education about them whatsoever. It is actually quite dangerous in our opinion. These products also require specific venting components with restrictions as to their installation which will not be evident in the purchase without a trained professional to assess the installation application and recommend the appropriate venting. Your local TSC worker is not properly educated or trained in this field.

Quality- The quality of the units we sell is incomparable to those purchased at a big box store. We have had customers call and say that their stove from TSC has only lasted one year. :(

Shipping Damage - Our products are designed to ship to our customers using approved carriers and processes. The risk for damage increases if you attempt to ship product outside of a dealer network. This means if you buy online or have the store deliver. The seller will not be responsible for any costs related to shipping damage.

Installation and Service - Our professionals are trained to install and service the products that we sell. We strongly recommend our products be installed and serviced by us. Your warranty will be void if the product is not installed, operated and maintained in compliance with local building codes and with the instructions in the installer's guide, owner's guide and listing agent identification label furnished with the product. Your warranty will also be void if any service work is performed on the product by anyone other than an authorized representative. Furthermore, many local professionals like us will not service a fireplace they did not sell, making the authorized service of your product much more expensive and most of the time non-existent. Lastly, the installation and set up of a product requires very specific installation and operational accessories. These accessories are often times not included in online or big box sales, and can be very difficult and expensive to find after the fact. For proper sales and service, please contact us today.

Cost To Purchase & Install

If you wish to install a wood stove you have many of the same decisions in terms of wood-burning, pellet or gas as you would for a fireplace. While a wood-burning stove would not require the same extensive masonry work as a stone or brick fireplace, it does require a fire-resistant base of some type to rest on. This may come in the form of a brick, tile, stone or cement foundation that as a heat barrier. Which material you choose and how elaborately you want to embellish or style it will add to

the cost of installation. Here are the most common factors to consider when purchasing a wood stove for your home.:

Chimney/Stovepipe & Caps: Wood stoves require a chimney that is approved by the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL). The most common material used is insulated stainless steel. Many vendors offer kits that come with all of the chimney essentials you need including caps. If they do not, we order separately. Prices will vary depending on if you're going through a wall, a roof or a high-ceiling attic. Aside from the materials, you will also pay for the installation.

Non-combustible Wall Covering: As a general rule, stovepipes must be at least 18 inches away from any walls or ceilings. If the pipe must be in close proximity to a surface, we may recommend a non-combustible wall covering. This safeguards the walls from heat damage and reduces the risk of a fire hazard.

Base: All wood stoves must sit on a heat-resistant base that is non-combustible. This is due to the inevitable fact that stoves release sparks that can damage surfaces, such as carpets and hardwood floors. The cost of base installation varies greatly, based on the materials used and the size of the hearth pad. Regardless of the type of base you choose, it must extend 8 inches beyond all sides of the stove.

DIY or hire a pro: For the safest, most efficient, code-approved, best looking installation, please leave the work to the professionals. When installing any unit, there are very specific building code requirements. But especially regarding the venting of the unit. It's necessary that an appropriately determined liner is installed to ensure that the chimney's safety and draft satisfies all code and insurance specifications, and that the unit functions safely and appropriately. Tying that is sized and gauged incorrectly can cause many problems such as drafting resulting in excess creosote deposits and inefficient performance which leads to fire. A sound system is not only mandatory but truly a matter of safety. Also keep in mind that your insurance company will NOT cover any damage if the installation was not done by a chimney professional (not a building inspector). When considering the costs of installing a wood stove, you'll want to keep fire safety foremost in your mind. Half of all home fires resulting in death occurred because of flammable material placed too close to the heat source, according to a 2010 report by the National Fire Protection Agency. Your walls and floor need to be protected, and your stovepipe and chimney must be installed according to local codes and manufacturer's specifications. You'll enjoy greater peace of mind knowing your wood stove is installed safely

The total cost depends on the amount of time the job will take, the tools required and the complexity of the job. We can provide you with a free in-home consultation to give you a quote for your specific project.

Cost To Operate

Operating costs depend on the size of the wood stove, your geographic location, the efficiency of the home and how you get the wood. Obviously, the wood is free if you gather it from your own backyard. Having a cord of wood delivered costs anywhere from \$100 to \$300, depending on your region of the country. Here in Michigan, plan to purchase about three cords per year.

Asthma & Allergies

If anyone in your household suffers from asthma or allergies, consider whether a wood stove is the right fit. Wood stoves and inserts can trigger breathing problems, though proper stove maintenance can help mitigate these health issues.

Child, Animal & Elderly Safety

How do you keep your toddler safe from not only in-use fireplaces, but also the hard, sharp hearth corners, dangerous tools, dirty logs, and/or gas starter keys? This one-of-a-kind gate system allows you to fit a standard 6' hearth immediately or you can customize it to fit any length or shape by adding extra extensions.



Inspiration Photos



Enviro Boston 1700



Enviro Kodiak 1700



Napoleon Banff 1400

