

# GAS LOGS BUYERS GUIDE

Gas Logs are a great way to add ambiance to a room during winter months. There are a lot of options when shopping for gas logs, so how do you decide which set is right for you? In this buying guide, we'll explain everything you need to know when choosing a gas log set. With over twenty years of gas log experience, we are uniquely qualified to assist you in choosing the right gas logs for your home.

## Are you going for Looks or Heat or Both?

We offer vented gas logs that primarily serve a decorative function while providing some heat. We also offer a Radiant Heat series of vented gas logs that maintain the authentic beauty and realism of a real fire while providing you with all the heat you need.

### Size Vented Natural Gas

18" 70,000 BTU Input Rating

24" 80,000 BTU Input Rating

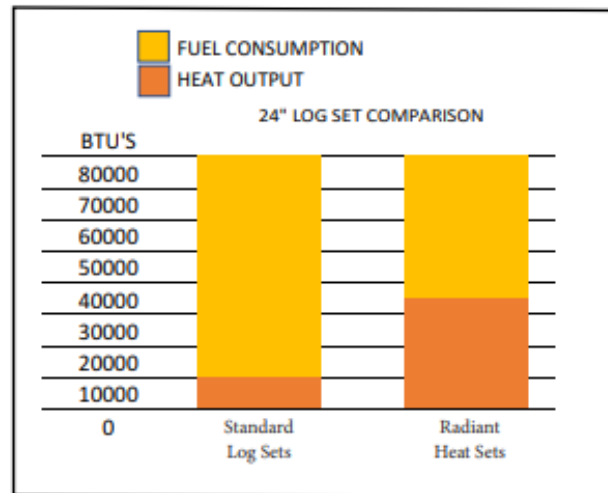
30" 90,000 BTU Input Rating

### Size Vented Propane Gas

18" 46,000 BTU Input Rating

24" 46,000 BTU Input Rating

30" 60,000 BTU Input Rating



Radiant Heat Series (Hargrove's Rustic Timbers)



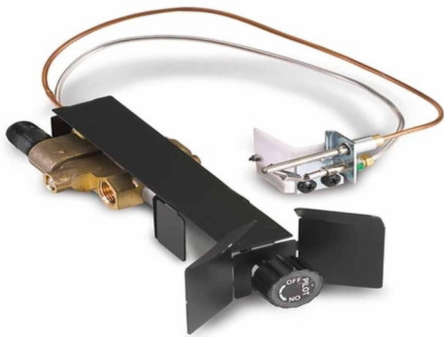
Decorative (Hargrove's Western Pine)

## Ignition Options

**Match-Lit** - This is the most affordable and simplest control option. All you need is a match or a lighter to ignite the gas. They are only available with vented gas log sets fueled by natural gas.



**Manual Safety Pilot** - This method includes a safety pilot valve assembly as well as a push button igniter. With a push button system, the spark to light the gas is generated by pressing the valve control repeatedly to ignite the gas and is then turned to increase the flame. The pilot valve has a safety mechanism built in which shuts off the gas supply in the event that the pilot light goes out or the burner is not lit. You have the option of utilizing the standing pilot which allows the burner to be continuously lit giving you the ability to turn the log set on and off as many times as you want using the control knob located on the side of the log burner without ever holding a match to the burner.



**Remote Control** - With a push button system, the spark to light the gas is generated by pressing the valve control repeatedly to ignite the gas and is then turned to increase the flame.

This must be done each time you wish to light the burner if you choose not to use the standing pilot function. With the electronic ignition remote system, electricity is used to ignite the spark each time the burner is lit. Some remotes will require an electrical outlet at the fireplace, and others operate from batteries. It is not necessary to maintain a standing pilot or light the burner by hand. This offers great convenience and enables you to enjoy your fireplace without interrupting your relaxation.



## Control Options

**Basic Remote Control** - This features an included remote pilot valve assembly and allows you to turn the burner on or off only. The flame will be consistently the same height.



**Variable Flame Remote Control** - The Variable remote adds the capability to adjust the flame height at your discretion, allowing you to maintain the level of heat produced in your room.



**Variable Flame Remote Control With Thermostat** - This remote allows you to control the temperature in your room in much the same way as the thermostat of your home heating system. Most can be used with a millivolt safety pilot or electronic ignition.



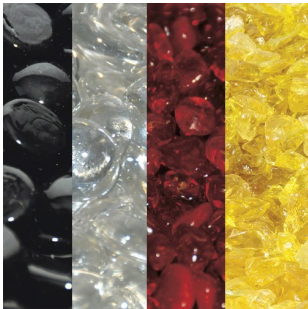
**Wall Switch** - Wall switches are another option to use with your gas logs. Please see Wall Switch Chart for easy reference. The capabilities will depend upon the type of safety valve and ignition method used. Generally speaking, the wall switches will offer the same functionality as a remote but are permanently mounted in an easily accessible location. This is a great option if you have children in the home who might be tempted to use the hand-held remote.

## Styles

Gas logs come in a variety of wood styles – oak, pine, driftwood, birch, juniper, cedar, sassafras, hickory & more! There are also some modern alternatives if the wood styles aren't what you're looking for....



**Fire Glass** - Contemporary alternative to gas logs. Tempered glass reflects the flame for a radiant sparkle. Available in blacks, blues, browns, gold, clear and multi-colored variations.



**Fire Gems** - Unique alternative to gas logs. Tempered and tumbled glass formed into a gem shape. The smooth, round gem surface reflects the flame in a brilliant sparkle. Available in blacks, blues, oranges, reds, clear and multi-colored variations.



**Fire Stones** - Bold alternative to gas logs. Patterned from natural stones for a rustic feel. Available in several color combinations for a unique appearance in your fireplace. Made from refractory ceramics with a sturdy steel reinforcement.



**Fire Balls** - Provides a sleek and modern alternatives to gas logs. They are made from refractory ceramics with a sturdy steel reinforcement. Available in several colors including gray, white, brown and black.



**Decorative Geo Shapes** - Bold and artistic alternative to gas logs. Several shapes included in the sets, including cones, squares, and pyramids. Made from refractory ceramics with a sturdy steel reinforcement. Available in several colors, including gray, white, brown, and black.

## **Do they need electricity to run?**

No. Gas logs can come in very handy during a power outage since they're fueled by a permanent gas line and don't require electricity to function. They are just as effective and efficient during a power outage as they are on a normal day making them a great backup heat source.

## **Maintenance**

Compared to wood burning fireplaces, gas log sets require little to no maintenance to keep them up and running, you'll still need to have the chimney inspected and swept once a year.

Your gas logs will also need to be cleaned periodically to remove creosote buildup, especially if you're using propane gas. Over time some parts may need to be replaced on your log set, but there's virtually no daily maintenance compared to a wood burning fireplace. Simply turn your log set on when you're ready to use it and switch it off when you're done.

## **Realistic Appearance**

Gas logs offer you an extremely realistic replacement for wood logs. Some are cast from actual wood logs then hand-painted to bring out the texture, color, and pitting found in the natural wood grain and tree bark. Vented gas log sets come with expansive ember beds made from Rockwool to add even more lifelike appeal to your hearth. Rockwool ember beds flicker and glow the same way wood embers do in a dying fire, providing the same ambiance and depth.

## **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.

## **Mess-Free**

Gas logs burn very cleanly and don't create any smoke or ash typically associated with burning wood. You don't have to tend to the fire, clean up ash, or wait for the fire to die out completely. You also don't have to keep a dirty stockpile of wood on-hand, eliminating the possibility of termites and critters getting into your home.

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## **Convenient**

Not only are gas logs a cheaper way to enjoy a great fire, but they also take less time to set up and maintain. You can simply turn on the gas logs when you're ready for a fire and switch them off when you're done, whereas a wood burning fireplace takes time to prepare, maintain, and cool down. Several hours of your day can be spent just on the process of stacking wood in the hearth, stoking the fire, waiting for it to burn down, and extinguishing it properly. You'll also have to remove the ash once it's cooled, which can be pretty labor-intensive and messy.

## **Can I convert my Wood Fireplace to a Gas Log Set?**

In most cases, yes, gas logs can be installed in a fully functioning wood burning fireplace. There are some scenarios that will not allow for the installation of a gas log set in your fireplace. For example, if the fireplace is a high efficiency wood burning unit, a gas log set cannot be installed. Please check with one of our professionals to answer this question as every fireplace is not the same.

## **Safety**

Gas logs are made for use in pre-existing wood burning fireplaces with functional chimneys. They should not be used in a gas fireplace unless they come with the gas fireplace or have been pre-approved by both the fireplace and gas log manufacturers to do so.

## **Your new house has Natural Gas. Can we still use the propane log set from the old house?**

It depends on the type of log set. Some vented gas log sets can be converted from propane to natural gas, but ventless gas log sets cannot. You may use a gas conversion kit to convert your vented propane log set to natural gas, however, the conversion kit you use must be approved by the manufacturer first to ensure safe and proper installation. \*Please note, when you purchase a gas log set the warranty is only valid for the original owner and for the original fireplace the log set was installed in. Gas logs can become brittle and may break after extended use and would not be covered under warranty if this occurs outside of the original conditions.

## **DIY or Hire a Pro?**

Gas logs should be installed by a qualified professional. Our technicians have specific training to install gas fireplaces, log sets, and stoves as well as their venting systems. In addition, these

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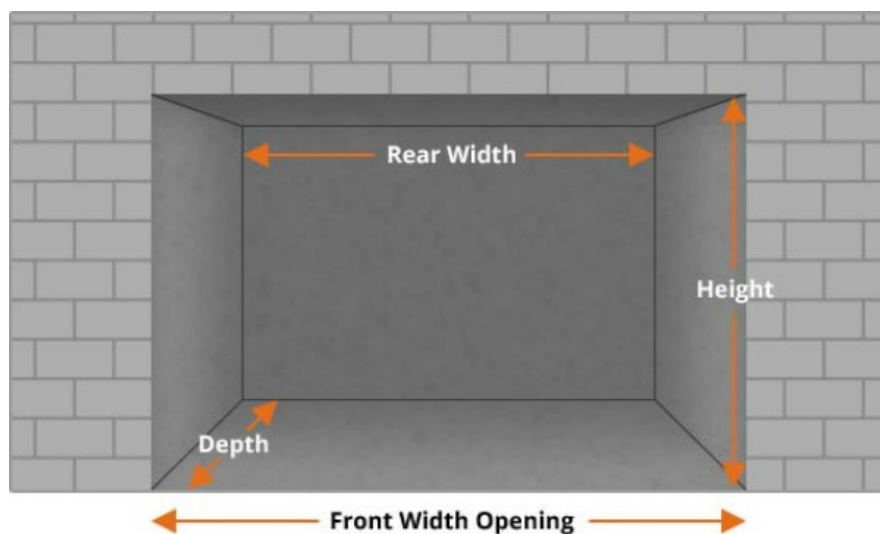
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## Cost To Operate

Gas logs are typically inexpensive to operate, however, your cost will vary depending on the price of gas in your area and how frequently you light your fireplace. If a gas company charges less than a dollar per Therm, ccf or 100,000 BTU, and the BTU rating of the gas log set is under 100,000 BTU, then the cost per hour will be less than a dollar. Compare that to the cost and time of ordering, re-ordering, delivering, and stacking firewood.

## Sizing

Improperly sized logs can overheat your firebox and the gas valves. This can cause permanent damage to your log set, fireplace, and home. Generally, you can measure the firebox to estimate what size gas logs will fit your fireplace. Simply measure the front width, rear width, depth, and height of the firebox. These measurements will size a gas log to the fireplace. We also suggests pictures, pictures, and more pictures! Pictures of your fireplace are a wonderful way for us to help you with the perfect gas logs to meet your needs. If you need assistance with measuring your firebox or would like to get an expert opinion, our Hearth Professionals are here to help! Call us at (517)-688-5278 or stop into our showroom and one of our experts will ensure you find the log set that's the perfect fit for your fireplace!



Continued ->

**FIREBOX MEASUREMENTS**

**SIZE OF ROOM**

**DISTANCE TO MOULDING OR MANTEL**

Front Width \_\_\_\_\_

Length \_\_\_\_\_

Left \_\_\_\_\_

Center Width \_\_\_\_\_

Width \_\_\_\_\_

Right \_\_\_\_\_

Back Width \_\_\_\_\_

Ceiling \_\_\_\_\_

Above \_\_\_\_\_

Depth \_\_\_\_\_

Can the room be closed

Mantel Depth \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_

off with a door? Yes / No

Type of Firebox? Masonry / Prefab