

# Wood Stove Operation Instructions

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Last Updated: March 24, 2019

## **5 basic rules for wood stove operation:**

1. Begin with a small hot fire;
2. Use dry seasoned wood;
3. Use kindling to start the fire;
4. Do not use large pieces of wood to start;
5. Give fire enough air;

## **How to start a fire in a wood stove:**

1. Crumple 5-10 wads of newspaper in bottom of stove;
2. Use 15-20 pieces of kindling on top of paper;
3. Place 2-3 small logs on top of kindling;
4. Open all air vents so the fire has enough air;
5. Light the newspaper and leave stove door slightly open (do not leave stove unattended when door is open);
6. When the fire is burning hot, add larger logs to the fire, making sure there is air between logs and fire is not smothered;
7. Close and latch door; use air vents to regulate heat;

## **Dos and Don'ts of wood stove operation:**

1. Never burn trash or treated wood; burn only dry seasoned wood;
2. Burn newspaper only when getting the fire started. Once the fire is going, DO NOT burn paper, cardboard or scraps of lumber, as they burn too hot and will damage the stove. Waste paper and cardboard should be recycled & delivered to the recycling shed;
3. Do not leave stove unattended when stove door is open, and a fire is burning;
4. Dispose of cold ashes properly; put in metal container with cover and place outdoors;
5. Leave approximately ½ inch of ash in the bottom to start the next fire;
6. Upon departure: Fires must be put completely out. Ashes should be left in the stove (DO NOT PUT IN TRASH);

Ordinarily users at RMBL do not need to remove ashes since stoves are used relatively little. If enough ashes accumulate that they spill out a lot then ashes may need to be removed. If you remove ashes follow the instructions above. Remember that live coals can last a long time in the ash bed. Ash containers should have a metal cover to prevent the wind from blowing them out, as this can cause fires.

Provided by Hearth, Patio, and Barbeque Association: [www.HPBA.org](http://www.HPBA.org)