

Restrictions on the sale of firewood, manufactured solid fuels and coal, sold for combustion in domestic premises.



The [Air Quality \(Domestic Solid Fuels Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#) place restrictions on fuel sold for combustion in domestic premises from 01 May 2021:

- Firewood sold in units of less than 2 cubic metres must be certified by the [Ready to Burn Scheme](#) and the certification details and scheme logo must be attached to the packaging and clearly displayed at the point of sale.
- If firewood is sold in units of more than 2 cubic metres, customers must be provided with a [notice that explains how to dry, store and check the moisture of the wood before it is used](#).
- All manufactured solid fuels must be certified by the Ready to Burn Scheme and the certification details and scheme logo must be attached to the packaging and clearly displayed at the point of sale. Fuels that are exempt from these certification requirements are coffee logs, olive logs, wine logs, and fuels mostly made of wheat husks, straw, miscanthus, bamboo or compressed food waste.
- Only [Approved Coal Merchants](#) can legally sell traditional house coal (also known as bituminous coal) in England from 1 May 2021 up to 30 April 2023. It must be sold loose or in unsealed bags directly to the customer. It will be illegal to sell bagged coal.

Further information is available from the central government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ([DEFRA](#)) and a [Ready to Burn Consumer Leaflet](#).

Did you know?

A stove with the '[Ecodesign ready](#)' label produces around 90% fewer PM₁₀ emissions than an open fire and 88% fewer PM₁₀ emissions than an older conventional stove. From 2022, manufacturers must only supply stoves that meet the Ecodesign requirements.

Properly seasoned and dried wood can reduce levels of pollution from a home stove by up to 50%. Burning wet wood increases emissions and has a greater impact on air quality. Smoke produced from wet wood increases the maintenance and repair requirements of an appliance, making it more expensive to run and harder to keep in a safe, effective condition. Only buy retail bags of wood fuel clearly labelled as 'Ready to Burn' by a certified supplier.

The following guidance leaflets are available from the DEFRA and Burnright consumer awareness campaigns:

- DEFRA '[Open fires and wood burning stoves – A practical guide](#)': A simple practical guide on lighting and using wood burning stoves and open fires to reduce their environmental impact and maximise their efficiency.
- DEFRA '[Smoke Control Areas: Do you know the rules?](#)': Provides simple guidance for those that need to use wood burning stoves or open fires in smoke control areas to ensure you don't fall foul of the law.

- DEFRA '[How to get the most from your stove or open fire – A guide to buying, storing and seasoning wood](#)': Guidance on how to get the most out of your wood fuel and maximise efficiency.
- Burnright '[We all breathe the same air](#)': Provides clear advice on the procedures to follow when lighting and operating a wood burning appliance to minimise smoke emissions.

Further, more detailed, information about choosing the right fuel and operating your appliance correctly to reduce pollution and save money is available from the [Burnright](#) consumer awareness campaign website, which has been set up by professional chimney sweeps.

Do not burn treated waste wood (e.g. painted wood, chipboard, MDF or old furniture) or household rubbish. Treated wood waste can emit harmful fumes and household rubbish may include plastics that can release toxic pollutants, such as arsenic, into your home when burnt.