

My Experiences with Wood Burners

by Pam Gittins

About 3 years ago, I saw a pub with a log fire on my way home from work in the cold wet and rain and I WANTED one!

First of all we bought a second hand Efel through ebay, it was quite cheap but transport was awkward as they are very, very heavy! We had it installed in the living room of our small house in Highland Road, not a huge mansion. When we lit it wow the heat was terrific, it was sauna time.

A while later I decided I wanted to try a Range cooker. After several false starts we bought an old solid fuel Rayburn that allegedly runs on coal and wood. Ours is very happy on Anthracite, it will work well on logs but you do have to keep an eye on it so that it doesn't suddenly get short of fuel and it stays in better at night if it has its favourite fuel. It sits in the corner of the very small kitchen and breathes hot air at us. I luv it. During the summer we have to use a small electric cooker as the Rayburn would make the rest of the house too hot (it does hot water and seven radiators). There are quite a few places you can buy large supplies of logs, make sure they are seasoned and try to keep them dry as burning damp wood is not clever or easy!

Usually lighting these stoves requires a pile of newspaper some kindling and ONE match. Don't use firelighters they do smell nasty!

We are lucky we do not live in a smoke controlled zone but apparently modern woodburners, (ours is about 20 years old) are OK in that sort of environment. We have had one or two complaints about wood smoke from neighbours, usually when the Efel (the lounge stove) is first lit but it doesn't smell nearly as bad as the average barbecue.