

# SOLID FUEL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Great Ways to  
Save Money on  
your Heating Bills



# A Guide to Energy Efficiency with Solid Fuel

Energy Efficiency is an important issue today. With rising fuel prices due to increasing worldwide demand and diminishing resources, the importance of fuel conservation is essential. Added to which concerns about emissions from burning fossil fuels create much discussion.

Clearly, there is value in reducing your energy consumption to the minimum whilst maintaining a warm home. Here are several simple tips which cost you nothing and only require a small change to your habits -



## Useful tips

- Do not leave lights on if you are not using a room
- Use low energy light bulbs
- Avoid leaving electrical appliances on standby
- Do not put hot or warm food in the fridge
- Draw your curtains at dusk to reduce heat loss through the windows
- Don't overfill kettles and saucepans with water
- Try to wash a full load in the washing machine and dishwasher
- Use economy settings
- Turn down your room thermostats by 1°C

**Further information can be found on the  
Energy Savings Trust website on**

**[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)**

**and**

**[www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)**

## Improving the thermal efficiency of your dwelling

1. The most cost effective way to increase the thermal efficiency of your home is to install cavity wall insulation.
2. Loft insulation should ideally be 270mm thick
3. Insulate hot water storage cylinders and exposed pipework
4. Fit double glazing – this is quite expensive, but there are additional benefits of sound proofing. However, you must remember to provide adequate ventilation for the chimney and fire to work safely in accordance with Building Regulations.



# Improving your Heating System

## Open Fires

- Fit an adjustable throat restrictor to reduce draughts
- Fit glass fire doors to save fuel, particularly with larger fires
- Fit a Firefront to convert it into a closed appliance and improve efficiency

## Central Heating Systems

- Fit a high efficiency solid fuel or multi-fuel appliance
- Fit central heating timers and thermostats to automatically control the operation of the heating system and reduce fuel consumption
- Fit a 'Link-up system' to combine your solid fuel or multi-fuel boiler with another energy source to provide full flexibility of options and reduce dependency on more expensive fuels



## Useful tips for Solid Fuel Users

- Always use the correct fuel for your appliance. The right fuel will perform better in the appliance for which it was designed to burn. Our Fuels Guide will provide advice on the choices.
- Always burn the best quality fuel you can afford. The heat content will be higher and the ash less.
- Use the riddling device and a poker to effectively clear ash and clinker from the grate. The fire will not function to capacity if the grate is clogged. Leaving ashes to accumulate on the grate and in the ash-pan below can result in damage to the fire.
- Have your chimney swept regularly – at least once a year or more frequently if burning bituminous coal or wood.
- Ensure appliances are annually serviced by a qualified engineer and regularly maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use a Competent Person, for instance a HETAS Registered Installer when you have a new solid fuel heating fire fitted.



- Only burn well-seasoned wood where permitted. Wood is a carbon neutral fuel and is considered environmentally friendly. Burning wood with a high moisture content will waste energy during the drying out process and increase the risk of condensation in the chimney.
- Wood is not an authorised fuel in a Smoke Control Area unless the appliance has an exemption certificate issued by Defra.



## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Visit our web pages - [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)

Comprehensive listing of exempt appliances and smokeless fuels - [www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk](http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk)  
(Also see HETAS Guide)

Building Regulations – [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

Advice on energy saving and grants from Energy Savings Trust – [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

HETAS Ltd for a full list of competent solid fuel installers, approved appliances, fuels & products –  
[www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)

Approved Coal Merchant Scheme – Find your local fuel supplier on the merchant webpage of  
[www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk) or call us on 01773 835400

### SOLID FUEL ASSOCIATION

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