

## Everyone benefits when you **Burn Right**



### You benefit:

- Save money by burning less wood
- Protect your house against chimney fires
- Save time tending your fire

### Your community benefits:

- Less soot and other small particle emissions mean healthier air around your house and in your community

### The environment benefits:

- Black carbon (soot) in the air is a source of regional and global warming. Soot from woodstoves and boilers lands on Vermont's snowpack, increasing snow loss and has even been tracked to Greenland and the Arctic, where it accelerates melting of ice sheets and sea ice.

## Help improve Vermont's air quality

Using dry wood and burning your fire right will save you money while improving the quality of Vermont's air and will slow both regional and global climate change.

### ABOUT ICCI

ICCI is a Vermont nonprofit working to protect the earth's ice- and snow-covered regions, also known as the cryosphere. The climate is changing faster and more dramatically in the cryosphere than anywhere else on earth. These changes have begun to accelerate climate change globally, and will have increasingly irreversible impacts throughout the globe, for example from sea-level rise. ICCI works to create local, regional and global climate policies that will slow these changes.

INTERNATIONAL CRYOSPHERE  
CLIMATE INITIATIVE

[www.burnrightvermont.org](http://www.burnrightvermont.org)  
[www.iccinet.org](http://www.iccinet.org)



# Burn Right

**Vermonters can produce more heat, save money and maintain a safer stove**

**...while you help clean the air and slow climate change**

[burnrightvermont.org](http://burnrightvermont.org)

# Five simple ways to Burn Right

## Step 1. Burn the right fuel

Use properly seasoned wood, cut in the spring and dried over the summer (preferably more than six months). Store wood outdoors, off the ground, with the top covered but the sides left open for airflow.

## Step 2. Flip your fire upside down

Yes, you read right — upside down! The conventional method of lighting kindling below big logs releases excessive smoke. Lighting from the top and letting the fire spread down creates a better draft and less pollution.

## Step 3. Keep the fire burning hot

If using wood as your main source of heat, never let the combustion chamber cool. A hot fire is an efficient and clean fire. Harmful emissions are burned before they can go up your smokestack.

## Step 4. Check the color of the smoke

When you Burn Right there should be no visual smoke from your firebox or chimney. Black or yellow smoke mean your fire is burning inefficiently and producing a lot of damaging emissions.

## Step 5. Use a clean & efficient stove

Low-emission wood stoves and furnaces are designed to reduce air pollution, including climate-damaging black carbon. If you have an older stove, consider upgrading. A new stove will use less fuel and save you money over time.

# How to light your fire from the top

Follow these steps to start a hotter fire with less pollution:

1.



It's not how we were taught, but place biggest logs on the bottom.

2.



Crisscross 2 or more layers of smaller logs on top.

3.



Next place your kindling together with bark, wood chips, or a commercial fire starter.

4.



Light the fire from the top. The hot gases will spread and ignite the entire pile.

Don't let the fire go out — add new logs before it burns down.