

HOW TO LIGHT A FIRE

1. Open your damper fully and visually inspect the opening for any blockages
2. Ball up a few pieces of newspaper and place them in the center of your grate. Put several pieces of kindling (smaller pieces of wood) in a teepee stack around the newspaper balls. Put the smaller pieces closer to the newspaper and build up to the larger pieces
3. Stack your two larger logs on either side of the kindling pile, running front to back. Put two smaller logs on top of these running side to side and taper the stack in a pyre shape. Leave enough air between the logs to allow a good, hot fire to burn with lots of air.
4. Roll up several pieces of newspaper into a long roll and light the end of it like a torch. Put the flame end of the torch into the damper opening. This will “prime” the flue. When the draft (air-flow) seems like it is going upward into the chimney at a good rate, bring your “torch” down and light the balls of newspaper in the middle of your stack.
5. As the fire starts to die down, add more fuel (logs) as needed. Only add one or two more logs at a time and try to keep them spaced apart so that they burn fully.
6. When the fire is completely out (make sure there are no hot embers in the ash bed), close your damper and sweep up your ashes into a container. If you use a flammable container (such as a brown paper bag), make very sure there are no hot embers in the ash before you dispose of the bag.

TIPS

1. Only use hardwoods (Oak, Cherry, Hickory, etc) for your firelogs. Pine is OK for kindling, but do NOT USE pine for your firelogs. Use well-seasoned wood to avoid creosote buildup in the chimney, smoke spillage into the home or unpleasant odors.
2. DuraFlame type logs are OK to burn, but never burn more than one at a time. Try to use the natural type of DuraFlame logs if possible (ie Java Logs)
3. Use only black and white standard newspaper for your starter and your torch. Never use colored newspaper or glossy magazines/circulars
4. If you are getting smoke spillage into the home, try raising the grate by placing the legs on bricks, put the grate as far back in the fireplace as possible, prime the flue for a longer period of time, and make sure your wood is properly seasoned