

Installing a woodburner



Everything you need to know:

Woodburner's have been a popular addition for many years but now house coal sales are being phased out this trend is surely only likely to increase, particularly in rural areas. Installers that are members of a relevant "Competent Person Scheme" can self-certify their work meets the required standards, but for everyone else your Local Authority Building Control Team is here to help! Below are some helpful tips and things to be aware of!

What should you consider?

Woodburners work best when they aren't just ticking over, but rooms in better insulated houses can easily overheat. Choosing a smaller wood-burner could mean you enjoy it for longer in the season, and under 5kW it shouldn't require additional combustion air ventilation.

Do you already have a suitable chimney flue? More recently constructed (or relined) chimneys should have a "flue information plate" fixed close to them, or perhaps next to your meters or consumer unit. Check this plate to see what diameter the flue is, and what types of appliance it is suitable for.

No chimney? If you have space it may be possible to install a twin wall metal chimney, or even build one in brickwork. We can guide you on the requirements.

Chimney flues that previously only served open fires will almost certainly require re-lining to make them suitable for a woodburner. The manufacturer will specify flue and combustion air requirements in their literature. Usually the flue liner will need to be smaller diameter and insulated to ensure adequate draw.

Selecting the most appropriate method to re-line your flue will depend on budget, and the type of chimney you have. Get your flue thoroughly swept and checked for defects by a qualified sweep before you start. They should be able to advise you on any issues that could potentially affect your choice of flue liner.

Lining system choices include:

Flexible stainless steel liners – these are the most popular choice due to lower initial cost and ease of installation, but life expectancy can be much shorter. Get the highest grade liner you can, as the additional cost is relatively small for the extra lifespan.

Cast-in-situ concrete flue liners – these do require specialist installation as aerated concrete needs to be pumped around a temporary tubular former inserted into your chimney. A concrete liner shouldn't need replacing, but cost more and aren't always suitable.

Sectional flue systems – these can sometimes be retrofitted particularly in larger chimneys, but often require sections of chimney brickwork to be removed.

There are rules governing how close your woodburner can be to combustible materials. Protection may be needed to nearby floors and timber framed walls. This is something we can discuss with you on site.

Don't forget you will need a correctly installed carbon monoxide alarm within the room contain the wood burner

What do you need to do next?

Make your Building regulations application here : www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/building-control/make-a-building-regulations-application

Let us know at least 48 hours before you intend to start work, and book your inspection the day before.

On successful completion you will receive a certificate of compliance to keep safe should you ever sell your property.

Still have a query? Did you know that we do offer 1 hours free pre application consultation for those who need it. Contact us today at buildingcontrol@eastsuffolk.gov.uk / 01502 523072