



It all adds up to cleaner air



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Air Quality and Wood Burning Stoves

The EPA issued standards in 1988 regulating the manufacturing and sale of wood burning stoves with the goal of reducing air pollution. EPA-certified stoves reduce smoke emissions by 90% and increase heating efficiency.¹ According to Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality:

There are two kinds of approved wood burning stoves: "catalytic" stoves and "non-catalytic" stoves. Catalytic stoves use a ceramic catalyst inside the firebox to assist with the burning of waste-gases (smoke). Non-catalytic stoves use a combination of sophisticated baffles and air supply designs to burn waste gasses efficiently. Both design approaches do the job. In general, catalytic stoves are a little more efficient initially than non-catalytic stoves, but catalysts deteriorate over time and need to be replaced every 2-4 years to ensure good performance.²

In order to improve air quality and save money on heating fuel, it is recommended that anyone with a woodstove manufactured before 1988 replace their current unit with an EPA-certified woodstove or with an alternative heating source (e.g. pellet, natural gas). A list of certified stoves can be found at www.epa.gov/woodstoves/. Tax credits of 30% of the purchase value can be claimed for stoves bought between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.³

As an alternative to replacing an entire existing unit, older stoves may be able to be retrofitted with a catalytic combustor (also called catalytic converter or catalytic damper). Several brands of combustors include the CAT-1000⁴, Riteway Uni-Com⁵ and Catalytic Damper Corp's Intensifire. You can find combustors by brand of stove at www.woodstovecombustors.com.

¹ www.epa.gov/woodstoves/

² www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/woodstoves/101.htm

³ www.hpba.org/consumers/hearth/tax-credit-information/hpba-tax-credit-faq-fact-sheet

⁴ Available at www.woodmanspartsplus.com

⁵ Available at www.inandoutlifestyles.com