

Solid Fuel Appliances

Smoke Control

Wood Burning Stoves

With fuel prices escalating, many people are looking at alternative ways of heating their properties. Wood burning stoves are becoming increasingly popular and with them an increase in complaints of fuel and odours.



Smoke Control Areas

Many parts of South Gloucestershire Council lie within a smoke control area. This means that if you do have a wood burning or multi-fuel stove or an open fire in your home you should use an authorised smokeless fuel, or use an approved wood burning stove. A list of authorised fuels can be found on the UK Smoke Control Website (see below). When using smokeless fuels, ensure that they are suitable for use in your stove.

South Gloucestershire's smoke control area lies within the boundary of the M4, M5 and M32 motorways. It includes:

- Filton
- Patchway
- Stoke Gifford
- Little Stoke
- Bradley Stoke

The following roads in Kingswood are also in a smoke control area:

<i>Road</i>	<i>House numbers</i>
Highview Road	1-43 odds
The Green	1-6 odds and evens
Canons Walk	All
Lees Hill	66-72 evens
Pound Road	113-133 evens
Chapel Road	1-9 odds
Tudor Road	1-58 odds and evens

If you are unsure as to whether you are in a smoke control area or not, please contact Environmental Protection on **01454 868001**.

It is an offence to acquire any unauthorised solid fuel for use in a building in a smoke control area other than in a building or appliance that is exempt.

Even if you do not live in a smoke control area, you have to abide by certain regulations. It is an offence to emit dark smoke from your chimney. Dark smoke generally comes from a fire that is burning things such as wet wood or plastics. The legislation only applies to fires within a building. So you can still have a bonfire outside – providing it does not cause a statutory nuisance.

Approved Stoves

There are many stoves that have been tested and approved for use in smoke control areas or smokeless zones. If you live in a smoke control area, it is important to ensure that if you before you buy a stove, you check that it is on the approved list. Your retailer should be able to give you this information, alternatively a full list can be found on UK Smoke Control Areas website (see below).

Installation

If you are installing a wood burning stove, we recommend that is installed by an engineer registered with the industry trade body HETAS. If this is not the case then you need to gain approval for the stove through Building Regulations.

Without HETAS approval for a new or second hand stove, there are potential risks of carbon monoxide emissions, invalidation of your house insurance and potential difficulty in selling your property without the necessary certification. The need for a certificate or Building Regulation compliance applies to all wood burning stoves installed after April 2006.

If you are unsure whether or not your stove has the correct certificate, contact HETAS (see below).

The Law

The Clean Air Acts of 1956 and 1968 were introduced to deal with the smogs of the 1950s and 1960s which were caused by the widespread burning of coal for domestic heating and by industry. Under the Clean Air Act local Authorities may declare the whole or part of district of the authority to be a smoke control area. It is an offence to emit smoke from a chimney of a building, from a furnace or from any fixed boiler if located in a smoke control area. South Gloucestershire Council's Environmental Health Team will investigate complaints of smoke in a smoke control area. The current maximum level of fine is £1,000 for each offence.

Tips and Advice

DO make sure that if you live within a designated Smoke Control Area you only install a stove that is approved by Defra.

DO make sure that your wood or multifuel stove is fitted by a HETAS approved engineer, or that you obtain Building Regulations approval before using it.

DO make sure wood is dry and suitable before you burn it. Wet wood, wood that has been treated or wood that contains glue may emit darker smoke and cause substances to stick to your chimney meaning you have to clean it more often.

DO make sure your chimney is cleaned at least once a year.

Further Information:

Building Regulations
South Gloucestershire Council
Tel: 01454 86 8004
www.southglos.gov.uk

HETAS
Tel: 0845 634 5626
www.hetas.co.uk

Solid Fuel Association
Tel: 0845 601 4406
www.solidfuel.co.uk

UK Smoke Control Website
Tel: 08459 33 55 77
www.smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk

Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

**South Gloucestershire Council
Environmental Protection
Department for Environment and Community Services
PO Box 299, Civic Centre, High Street,
Kingswood, Bristol
BS15 0DR**

Tel: 01454 868001

Email: Environmental.protection@southglos.gov.uk

Web: www.southglos.gov.uk/envpro