

Don't burn damp logs

New advice from the Boat Safety Scheme

For further information on stove fuels, see www.soliftec.com/woodfuel.htm.

Advice for boaters on staying safe from CO poisoning can be found at www.boat-safety-scheme.org/CO

and on a lighter note....

The Woodcutters rhyme

Beechwood fires are bright and clear
 If the logs are kept a year
 Chestnut only good they say
 If for long it's laid away
 Make a fire of elder tree
 Death within your house will be
 But ash new or ash old
 Is fit for a Queen with a crown of gold
 Birch and Fir logs burn too fast
 Blaze up bright and do not last
 It is by the Irish said
 Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread
 Elmwood burns like churchyard mould
 Even the very flames are cold
 But ash green or ash brown
 Is fit for a Queen with a golden crown
 Poplar gives a bitter smoke
 Fills your eyes and makes you choke
 Apple wood will scent your room
 With an incense perfume
 Oaken logs, if dry and old
 Keep away the winters cold
 But ash wet or ash dry
 A king shall warm his slippers by

Boaters using damp wood and logs in their stoves could risk increased costs, stove damage and carbon monoxide poisoning. To burn effectively, wood needs to be dried out, or seasoned, to a maximum of 15-20% water content. A fresh 1kg log with 60% moisture may be able to give out just under 2kW of heat, whereas a 1kg log dried to 25% roughly doubles the heat output to about 4kW. You should use wood that burns easily and cleanly with a good heat output, feels dry and has a hollow sound when tapped.

Any wood that feels damp and dense or has leaves attached should be avoided

Suitable wood often has cracks in the end where it has dried out. Wood fuel should be kept in a dry, well-ventilated area.

Damp fuel causes the stove to run at a lower temperature, as the heat of the fire produces steam, so the stove needs much more fuel to keep the boat warm. The steam dissolves flammable, acidic tars that will cling to and block up, as well as damage, the stove and its chimney. Damaged stove installations are more likely to leak combustion gases into the cabin

Because of incomplete combustion of damp fuel wood, those gases are more likely to contain carbon monoxide. Stove flues lined with tar could also lead to a chimney fire. Any wood that feels damp and dense or has leaves attached should be avoided. Any green or white mould on the surface, or the absence of radial cracks, are signs of unseasoned wood that needs drying before use.



Mine stove from marinemine.com/