

Hearthwarming News

A Newsletter from the Masonry Heater Store
By Fountainhead Natural Homes, LLC

phone: 419-825-3031

website: www.masonryheaterstore.com

Autumn
2006



A New (To You) Way of Burning Wood

Fire is primal. Little children and adults alike will dreamily gaze into the flickering, dancing light of a real wood fire. It would be rare to find someone who is not in some manner entranced by the flames of melting wood. There seems to be something built into us as human beings that makes us appreciate, even long for, fire.

Fire is itself the basis of our daily lives. Without fire we would not have hot water in the morning, transportation to our jobs, or food on our plates. Granted, these may not come from a wood fire today, but the wood fire was at the root of these modern conveniences.

Many people grew up with a wood fire as a central part of family life. For some, the house was heated with a metal woodstove. Others lived in homes with large, open fireplaces that were used for occasional enjoyment during holidays or whenever there was time to tend a crackling fire, pop popcorn, or roast marshmallows.

I have fond memories from days when

my dad would bring home a special little canister of powder. This magical crystalline stuff, when sprinkled on the burning logs, made the flames turn fanciful shades of green, blue, and red.

Alongside those memories, however, are the other aspects of using a conventional fireplace – cleaning out an abundance of ashes, getting very little heat from the fireplace and constantly feeding it more firewood.

The latter is the one thing customers at the Masonry Heater Store remember most about fireplaces. They are drawn to want a fireplace in their homes, but have the unpleasant memories of constantly tending, poking, and adding wood to a fire to keep it burning as long as possible in an open fireplace.

Masonry heaters present an entirely new way of burning wood to folks with memories of struggling, smoldering fires and endless hauling of firewood. We refer to it as the lazy person's way of heating with wood. It is so simple:

- Load the firebox with the correct amount of wood plus firewood starter or kindling and paper.
- Light the starter or paper and close the door.
- Enjoy about 2 hours of vigorous fire...
- Let the fire go out and enjoy the next 12 – 24 hours of gentle, radiant heat.

That's as simple as it can get! You don't need to constantly add more wood. You don't need to poke and prod to make it burn. Come on into the Masonry Heater Store this fall and we'll show you how easy it is!

The Masonry Heater Store is located at 7416 Airport Highway, Holland, Ohio. It is 2 miles west of exit 8 off I-475/23 and 5 miles east of Ohio Turnpike exit 52. Please e-mail Tulikivi@masonryheaterstore.com or call 419-825-3031 for more detailed directions. **Open 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Saturdays only or by appointment.**

Selecting the right fuel for a Masonry Heater!

All wood burning fireplaces, stoves and furnaces require quality fuel to provide quality heat. One of the great advantages of a masonry heater is that it is not as picky as other stoves when it comes to fuel. We encourage the use of any wood species in our heaters.

Some stove manufacturers and retailers will be quick to inform customers that there are specific species of wood that will give the best performance from the stove.

Many people now believe that more heat is produced from woods like oak, maple, and cherry than from any other type of wood. In particular, it is believed that softwoods like pine and fir have very little heat value.

It is true that pine, fir, hemlock and cedars are not the best fuels for a conventional woodstove, but not because they are poor fuels. In fact, a measured pound of dry pine will have virtually the identical BTU content as a measured pound of oak! (BTU stands for British Thermal Unit which is the common measure of heat output in America.)

You heard right. Pine, larch, cedar, fir, hemlock, and all other softwoods are on par with any hardwood when it comes to heat content! That is why, if you come to the Masonry Heater Store, we will tell you to burn whatever dry wood you have available in a masonry heater! So why do other stove dealers want you to avoid softwoods?

Conventional metal woodstoves and fireplaces are wood hogs. In order to supply constant heat, they need a constant supply of wood during all hours of every day. Softwoods like pine burn quickly. So if you need a fire burning all day and are feeding it pine, you will have to add fuel more frequently than anyone could stand!

At the same time, softwoods contain a lot of resinous sap. Conventional stoves burn wood in an oxygen-starved

environment and those resins often don't completely burn under those conditions. Indeed, such an environment results in incomplete combustion of any wood. Resinous softwoods contribute greatly to the accumulation of unburned residue (creosote) inside a stove and chimney. To put it plainly, softwoods draw attention to the deficiencies of the woodstove itself. An appliance that burns wood correctly can burn any wood without creating a problem.

Masonry heaters burn wood correctly. Correctly burning wood simply means the combustion process is given enough air for complete combustion. In addition, the masonry heater firebox design facilitates the development of high temperatures – the other requisite of complete combustion.

Simply, masonry heaters burn everything burnable in wood. Pitch, sap, and other oils in softwoods are just more fuel for a masonry heater. Also, a masonry heater does not need constant stoking to heat your living space all day. So it does not matter if pine burns quickly. The heat still accumulates in the heater and is later released into your home.

The appropriate, quality fuel for a masonry heater is simply ANY dry wood split to 3 or 4 inches in diameter. Really, the most important aspect is dryness. Any wood species that has dried under cover for at least a year will be perfectly suited for a masonry heater.

Additionally, we suggest you bring inside the house a load of wood at least 12 hours before it is to be burned. This allows any recently accumulated surface moisture to dissipate before the fuel is loaded in the firebox.

Did You Know?

Tulikivi has a special promotion for 2006. The promotion offers heaters in the TU2200 family at substantial savings when ordered with a unique soapstone they have named salmon stone. With this promotion, a base model TU2200 is available at a retail price lower than a much smaller TU1000!

Healthy Hearth

In our modern world decisions are often made based on the “bottom line”. But when it comes to your family’s health and well-being, the true nature of the “bottom line” can become blurred.

It is possible to make a decision today that saves money today but costs in different ways in the long run. This can be true regardless of the subject. For example, you might buy sale price paint for the house and keep a few extra dollars in your pocket today. But in a couple years you might find that the sale paint doesn’t last long and you need to paint again prematurely.

Likewise, there are many ways to heat living space and some cost less than others. The way you heat your living space has perhaps the most influence on comfort and well-being.

What is the value of feeling healthy, warm, and vital? What is the value of reducing your family’s risk of respiratory irritation? What is the value of real comfort as opposed to just having heat in a house? What is the value of a heating appliance that daily soothes every muscle in your body with gentle radiant heat?

Most would agree that truly feeling warm, comfortable, and healthy are priceless. This feeling only comes from a true radiant heat source like a Tulikivi.

Research has shown that the gentle radiant heat from a soapstone fireplace is comfortable and enjoyable because the frequency of the thermal wavelengths of the human body and the stone fireplace are similar. In other words, your body recognizes the heat from a Tulikivi in much the same way it recognizes the heat from a friend, mate, or lover.

You can’t snuggle up against the hot air coming out of the furnace registers of a house. But you can snuggle up against your lover – or a Tulikivi!

Or, let’s put it this way: If you had the choice between being kept warm by hot air randomly circulating around a room, or by the gentle heat of another human being, which would you choose?

Consider a typical metal woodstove. It gets so hot you can’t get near it. Sometimes it’s so hot you can’t be in the same room with it. This is not the soothing heat of something or someone you cherish. It is more akin to the pressure felt when someone is angry with you. The aggressiveness drives you away.

Now consider that your lover isn’t always available because he or she is in the kitchen or gone for the evening or playing with the kids. The Tulikivi allows you to experience that same gentle warmth anytime. The value? Priceless!

This is the reason I sell Tulikivi products at the Masonry Heater Store. I am really selling true comfort. It’s the comfort of the radiant heat. It’s also the comfort of better health. Just as well it is the comfort of daydreaming in front of the dancing flames of a real wood fire.

All these are aspects of authentic well-being. There are many ways to save a buck in this world. I encourage you indulge yourself with authentic well-being.

-Ken Matesz



Inside:

- A New Way to Burn Wood
- Selecting The Right Fuel
 - Healthy Hearth

Store Hours:
Saturday: 10a.m.-4p.m.
Or by appointment.

Masonry Heater Store Contact Info:

Office: 419-825-3031

Fax: 419-825-1041

E-mail: Tulikivi@fnaturalhomes.com

Masonry Heater Store
7416 Airport Highway
Holland, Ohio 43528
419-825-3031

