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Masonry Heater Store Contact Info:

Office: 419-825-3031

Fax: 419-825-1041

E-mail: Tulikivi@fnaturalhomes.com

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

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

# Hearthwarming News

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

phone: 419-825-3031  
website: www.masonryheaterstore.com

Spring  
2007



## A Grand Opportunity!

In the last issue of this newsletter, the benefits and advantages of baking in a true stone oven were outlined. Baking in a radiant, heat retaining oven cooks food in unique ways that cannot be achieved in a regular gas or electric oven. And the use of wood fuel further imparts special flavor.

Tulikivi soapstone fireplaces and bakeovens are clean burning, high-efficiency heaters that are superbly crafted and designed to last for decades. It is difficult to list many things in this age that will last for decades and still retain their fine appearance and all their performance with so little maintenance. Tulikivi masonry heaters do just that.

Now the Masonry Heater Store is offering an opportunity to own a bakeoven of fine craftsmanship, and a heater of fine performance at a fraction of the cost of a new Tulikivi. This is perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own the world's most widely recognized soapstone heater.

The Tulikivi LU2600 is a large, free-standing, fully operational baking and heating appliance. (See picture above.) It is over 5400 pounds of solid soapstone, nature's best heat retaining stone. It has a footprint of 42.5"

wide X 33" deep. It stands 62 5/8" tall. This massive heater is capable of heating 1200 - 1400 square feet of living space as well as being a tremendous baking appliance.

The bakeoven chamber is 20" wide by 21 5/8" deep. This is plenty of space for baking several loaves of bread. The heat-retaining qualities mean it can be used to cook pizza after pizza, each in as little as a few minutes!

This unique opportunity exists because this bakeoven was formerly a showroom display that has now been dismantled. It was used to demonstrate the unique baking qualities of a soapstone oven.

The LU2600 has a 2007 retail price of \$10,900. Normally we would charge about \$3500 to deliver and install this heater in most places in Ohio. So the installed price of this unit new is \$14,400. (Price excludes foundation and chimney.)

We are offering this gently used bakeoven at a greatly reduced price. For someone acting soon, we will deliver and install this Tulikivi anywhere in Ohio for \$10,000! That's 30% less than the same bakeoven at 2007 prices – a savings of \$4,400.

Although we are selling this in "as is" condition, the new owner can be assured that this bakeoven will perform just as well as a new one. We will install it in the same professional manner we would for a brand new heater. And since Tulikivis will last indefinitely when properly used, this is an investment in fine baking for a lifetime.

**Call us today for more details! 419-825-3031.**

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.**

## Soapstone Rocks!

Soapstone is profoundly different than any other natural stone. Billions of years ago under intense heat and pressure together with the element of time, soapstone grew to enjoy the harshest of conditions.

Many of our customers ask about soapstone's qualities and wonder how it got its name. Some even question whether it is a manmade material. Indeed, it's almost impossible to believe nature would create a material so ideally suited to heat storage.

It's a material that is naturally heat resistant, yet, unlike ceramics, is easy to work. Its primary mineral compositions are of talc and magnesite. Magnesite is what gives soapstone its hardness and strength while talc is softer. Soapstone's more technical name is steatite.

There are soapstone deposits all over the world, including many places in the United States. Native Americans here also knew of soapstone's ability to withstand heat and frequently used it for the pipes that they smoked.

The soapstone that was used for these projects was generally low in magnesite content but high in talc content. This means the stone was not very hard and was easy to carve into pipe bowls. Often you will also see intricate figurines that are carved from this delicate, soft grade of soapstone.

Talc is responsible for soapstone's carvability and its silky smooth texture. Most people are familiar with talcum powder, also known commercially as baby powder. The unique, soft feel of soapstone is due to its high concentration of this mineral. Even when polished to a sheen, soapstone retains a distinctive feel. Other polished stones like granite always feel hard and unyielding, while soapstone lends a feeling of gentle forbearance.

Tulikivi's soapstone is mined in Finland. It contains just the right combination of minerals to make it what we call structural soapstone. It has just enough talc to make it workable while maintaining a good balance of magnesite to give it great

strength, durability, and just the right amount of hardness. Generally, soapstone in Tulikivi fireplaces is close to 50% talc and 50% magnesite.

What most sets this soapstone apart from any other stone, however, is its density and heat storage ability. Some of the materials we are most familiar with as being heavy and dense are no match for soapstone, weighing in at 185 pounds per cubic foot.

One of the densest, hardest materials with which most people are familiar is concrete. Concrete has a density of about 140 pounds per cubic foot, giving it only about 75% of the density of soapstone.

The next best material commonly used for masonry heaters is solid brick. This material has a density of only 120 pounds per cubic foot. This makes it only 65% of the mass of soapstone.

This density measurement combined with a material's specific heat is what gives a material its heat capacity – its ability to store heat. Here again we see the tremendous advantage of soapstone. It has a heat capacity of 43 BTUs per cubic foot while brick and concrete lag, having only about 60% of that.

The bottom line to all these facts and figures is that soapstone excels as a material for masonry heaters. It stores more heat than any of the most commonly used masonry materials. Yet it can be crafted in a superb fashion to make beautiful, luxurious fireplaces.

### It's Time for Spring Cleaning!

If you are fortunate enough to have a masonry heater, it's the time of year to think about putting it to rest! So before you forget about it, take a little time to remove your heater's soot plugs and clean out the season's accumulated fly ash. And make sure you've got enough firewood for the next heating season too!

## Healthy Hearth

Creating Harmony in the home.

I have heard it said that a masonry heater is a very democratic way of heating a home. Democracy has the intent of addressing the needs and desires of all the people in the land. If everyone has a voice, a vote, and is heard, there is democracy in action.

Every individual has different needs and wants and would like to have conditions suited to himself; to his interests. When this is done well, there are loads of happy people. People who are happy are comfortable.

So when someone says that a masonry heater is a democratic form of heating, it means that it is addressing the comfort needs of everyone in the household. A masonry heater is capable of making everyone in the home happy!

On a cold day, if someone comes in the house from a blustery walk in the park, he perhaps will want to sit as close as possible to something very warm. A masonry heater provides that very warm spot. This person can pull a chair right next to the radiant stones of the heater, or sit on the built-in benches and get the maximum heat benefit from the masonry stove.

On the other hand, someone inside the house all day who has a high metabolism may never feel cold. Children, and active individuals, often have this characteristic. These people wouldn't be interested in sitting right next to the masonry heater at all most the time. Instead, they will be quite comfortable across the room or even in another room altogether away from the stove.

And yet another person who has not been outside but whose circulation isn't all that great may find the perfect spot to be just a few feet away from the masonry heater.

There is an infinite combination of individual types. Some persons may feel chilly when they first get out of bed in the morning but after their morning coffee maybe they have no trouble staying warm.

Someone else may feel warm most of the time but when she starts getting tired at the end of the day, she feels less warm.

Meanwhile, the person who warmed himself on the cozy benches of the heater after his cold walk in the park, moves across the room once he has recovered from the chill of the outdoor adventure.

A masonry heater is the only type of heater I can think of that works so democratically. It automatically, without electronic gadgets or other bells and whistles, provides a comfort level for everyone in the house.

Think of it. With typical forced-air heat, all the rooms are the same temperature. The person who always feels cold is satisfied when the thermostat is set way up high. But the poor souls with high metabolisms are sweating in their shorts and T-shirts. If you lower the thermostat so that the latter are comfortable, the former feels cold!

Masonry heaters like the Tulikivi soapstone heaters at the Masonry Heater Store solve that dilemma beautifully. Nowhere else will you find a heating system that you can present as the showpiece of your home, while simultaneously providing the perfect living conditions for every person in the house.

So dream of a place in which your whole family is content and comfortable. Imagine a place of comfort for everyone in the house. Imagine gentle radiant heat penetrating the lives of the ones you love. In that imagining, you can find a Tulikivi for your home. In that imagining, you will find democratic heating in action, creating harmony in your home. -Ken Matesz

