

Hearthwarming News

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

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Summer
2005



Great Things Come in Small Packages!

Every year more and more folks are learning about the benefits, advantages, and inherent value of masonry heaters. And one of the advantages of the Tulikivi line of soapstone heaters is that Tulikivi makes such a wide variety of sizes.

The largest will heat most or all of the main living areas of the typical new house today and the smallest will keep a small room very cozy. In between are dozens of versions that give you more choice than any other manufacturer.

In 2005 so far, the top seller in Ohio is a small but mighty heater known as the TU1000. This unimposing soapstone marvel is designed to heat about 750 square feet of living space. So imagine some part of your home that is maybe 25 feet wide and 30 feet long. This could easily be your kitchen and dining room or maybe a large recreation room.

About a year ago, we installed one of these marvelous TU1000s into a 16 foot by 30 foot porch turned four season living area. That's about 480 square feet. Normally we would say that the TU1000 was actually a little oversize for this space. But the room is

almost all windows, which means the insulation level is quite low. So there was actually some concern about the stove's potential as the remodeling project went on.

But when winter arrived and the homeowners began using the heater regularly, the truth emerged. Not only did the little heater perform well for that added living space, it actually reduced the family's entire home heating costs significantly!

The TU1000 is available in many standard forms. The picture to the left is a TU1000/7 with custom benches. The basic TU1000 is about 34 inches wide, 19 inches deep and 4 feet tall. It takes up very little space for all the power it contains.

As with any Tulikivi model, this one can be customized with rockface, mantels, shelves, benches, and more. It can be built with the flue exit at the base (base vented) or with the flue coming off the top (top vented).

In September we will be adding a TU1000 to our showroom, the Masonry Heater store. Our version will have some rockface and a matte finish on all the honed stones.

If you are considering a room addition and need a reliable way to heat it, come to our showroom and scope out the possibilities. A TU1000 may be just right for your space! If it isn't, we definitely have something that 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 call 419-825-3031 or e-mail Tulikivi@fnaturalhomes.com for more detailed directions. **We will be establishing regular weekend hours soon, but currently only open by appointment.**

Summer Heater Care is No Sweat

Yes, it is summer. No one is thinking about heating a home when it's 90 in the shade. But it is smart to take care of some simple masonry stove chores this summer so that when the seasons change, you're ready to go. Expect to spend all of about an hour of your time doing this summer care. No sweat!

We recommend that you have the chimney inspected professionally every year and now is a good time to do that. If you hire someone to clean the chimney after the inspection, have them clean out the base channels of the heater while they're at it. This is done simply by removing the soot plugs and vacuuming thoroughly inside.

On a Tulikivi, the soot plugs are those round decorative pieces, usually around the base of the heater, that are just a friction fit piece of stone. Our custom heaters have black metal soot plugs.

This cleaning job can easily be done with any vacuum that has a good dust bag. So you can do it yourself in about ten to twenty minutes.

And while you're at it, go ahead and make sure the firebox, oven and ash pans are all clean as well. Start by brushing all the ash down through the grate in the firebox. Depending on your stove design, it will either fall into a simple pan that can then be emptied, or it will fall into an ash compartment with a trap door.

If you have a trap door instead of a pan, sweep the ash through that door. It falls into the heater foundation in your basement. If you have been using your masonry heater for several years and haven't yet cleaned out the ash from the foundation, now is the time to do that.

In your basement, at the heater foundation, you will find a small 8" X 8" steel door. Simply open that door and use a small shovel to scoop out the ash that has accumulated.

Your last summer task is to simply make sure the air inlets in the ashbox door and the loading doors are open along with the chimney damper. Keeping air moving through the heater in the summer minimizes the accumulation of moisture in the heater. Now go sit by the pool, because you're summer heater care is done!

Woods of Wisdom Furnishes the Masonry Heater Store

Here at the Masonry Heater Store, we love to heat with wood. But we know there are other ways to make good use of wood. One of these ways is to turn it into unique heirloom furniture. Lindsay Graham, a local craftsman here in Northwest Ohio, does just that. He takes unusual, highly figured, and sometimes exotic wood and turns it into truly functional works of art.

For Mr. Graham, who named his cottage industry, "Woods of Wisdom", the way to make a table top is to start with a 3 or 4 foot wide slab of walnut or oak around 2 inches thick and 12-16 feet long. His finished pieces will often have natural edges or steam-bent accents. Wooden wedges and pins are more likely to be seen than screws or nails. And a silky smooth, hand-rubbed oil finish is the norm.

You will not find furniture like this just anywhere. In fact, instead of a furniture store, to see his work you need to visit art shows. He'll be displaying at several art venues this fall including "Art in the Park" in Birmingham, Michigan, the "Black Swamp Art Festival" in Bowling Green, Ohio, and "Fine Furnishings, Providence Show" in Providence, Rhode Island.

Or, you can come to the Masonry Heater Store and find nothing but functional art: Furniture by Lindsay Graham and fireplaces by Tulikivi. You can also visit Woods of Wisdom on the worldwide web at www.woodsofwisdom.biz.

Healthy Hearth

Did you know that the radiant heat from a masonry heater is the healthiest way to heat your home?

Here in our office it seems like more and more we are hearing from folks that they are concerned about the type of heating system used in their homes because one or more members of the family suffers from allergies or asthma. Circulating dust and other allergens throughout a home can be a major concern.

So it is often asked whether or not the masonry heater will contribute to this problem. Many people have memories of growing up in a home with supplemental wood heat. They recall vividly the scent of wood smoke and soot that permeated the house both winter and summer.

In the winter it was the smoke from an open fire or a backdrafting chimney causing the odors. In the summer, it was cool air being pulled down the chimney that brought the smells into the home.

Smoke and odors are little more than particles (called particulates in the industry) that are being carried around on currents of air. Eventually these particles settle on everything – the floors, the furniture, your teacup, and, yes, your nasal and lung tissues.



A preponderance of these particulates in the air of a home is what gives the home that smell as a continuous aroma. Usually a new visitor notices right away when walking

in the home and will ask (already certain of the answer), “Do you heat with wood?”

So if you or someone you love has allergies, breathing problems, or some other sensitivity, you certainly would not want to have them live in that kind of environment.

This is one more reason why a masonry heater contributes to a healthier home and a healthier you. A masonry stove is always operated with the glass doors closed. And, the fact that the heater stores heat means that as soon as you open the chimney damper, you are almost certain to have positive draft. This means that the smoke is going to go up the chimney and not into your living space.

Furthermore, the circuitous path the smoke must take to get to the chimney is a roadblock to cool air coming down the chimney in parts of the year when the heater is not in operation. The overall result is that you don't have those irritating particles (particulates) floating around in your home. In other words, your house doesn't smell like it is heated with wood.

We have had guests in our home over the past 10 years who refused to believe that we heat with wood, because they can't smell that wood smoke smell.

If you don't smell it, it's not there. And if it's not there, it's not falling on your furniture, your coffee cup, or your throat, nasal, and lung tissues.

By contrast, the typical heating system, namely forced air furnaces, are famous for circulating dust and irritants throughout the house. Any time you have a fan blowing, you can be certain that dust is getting stirred up. That is a major concern for anyone who has allergies, asthma, or other breathing problems.

So, for health's sake, use a masonry heater when possible. It requires no fans or gadgets. It's a completely passive, clean way to comfort. —Ken Matesz

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