

15 October 2025

Dear Residents,

## **GUIDE: REDUCING SMOKE FROM YOUR CLOSED-COMBUSTION FIREPLACE**

We often receive questions about managing smoke, especially when neighbours raise concerns. A well-installed and properly operated fireplace should produce very little visible smoke — so if you're noticing more than usual, these simple tips can help improve performance and keep everyone happy.

### **Burn only dry, seasoned wood**

Wet or green wood produces excessive smoke and creosote. Use wood that's been properly seasoned for at least 12–18 months, with a moisture content below 20%.

### **Preheat your flue before lighting**

A cold flue can push smoke back into your home or out at lower levels. Light a rolled-up piece of newspaper and hold it near the flue opening for 20–30 seconds before starting your fire to establish a good draft.

### **Start your fire with plenty of airflow**

Open all air controls fully when lighting the fire. Only reduce airflow once the fire is burning hot and steadily — restricted air leads to incomplete combustion and more smoke.

### **Don't overload the firebox**

A smaller, hotter fire burns far cleaner than an oversized one. Gradually add logs as needed rather than stacking the firebox full.

### **Service your fireplace and chimney regularly**

A clean flue draws better and burns cleaner. We recommend an annual professional service to remove soot, creosote, and check for any blockages or wear.

### **Consider the wind direction**

Sometimes external wind patterns can push smoke downwards or sideways. If you notice this happening, try burning at times when the wind direction is more favorable.

Pro Tip: A healthy fire should burn bright with minimal visible smoke — if it's smoldering, it's smoking.

For assistance, inspections, or to book a service or flue clean, contact Village Management who will assist you by contacting one of the preferred specialists - we'll help ensure your fireplace runs efficiently & safely

Kind Regards,

Village Management