

Wood burning stoves in Churches & Church Halls

Special attention is required when installing wood burning stoves in churches and church halls. The nature of the installation will vary depending on the requirements of the church, but the following should always be considered:



Please notify us if you are considering installing a wood burning stove. Contact our Customer Services team on **0345 777 3322** or **churches@ecclesiastical.com**.

You will need to provide your policy number and an estimate/specification for the intended installation.

1. The stove should be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and properly serviced by a competent engineer, preferably a HETAS registered installer.
2. The wood burning stove needs to be sited on a non-combustible base e.g. stone. The stove, including the flue, should also be located away from combustible materials. The minimum distance will be specified by the stove manufacturer.
3. The system needs to have appropriate ventilation.
4. Wood burning stoves must be supervised whilst in use. Any lit fire must have been extinguished before the church/church hall is vacated.
5. The flue (and chimney if appropriate) needs to be inspected and swept on a regular basis by a competent engineer e.g. a member of the National Association of Chimney Engineers (NACE). We recommend that this is done at least annually.
6. Fuel for the stove should be stored securely. Do not stack it immediately adjacent to the stove or against the outside of the building where it could be used by an arsonist to assist in starting a fire.
7. Avoid burning wet or unseasoned wood. Burning wet, newly felled or coniferous wood can create tar or creosote in the wood burner that is additional hazard.
8. Only use fuel that the appliance is designed for. Do not use the stove as an incinerator for general rubbish.
9. Fit carbon monoxide detectors in the vicinity of the stove, as per manufacturer's instructions.
10. Review and update existing fire risk assessments for the building to reflect the introduction of the stove.
11. Train people in the safe operation of the stove, including ignition and re-fuelling to reduce the risk of fire spread and injury.
12. Keep children away from stoves when lit.

