



Do you own a wood-burning fireplace or stove?

This should be of interest...

The air we pollute is also the air we breathe!

Protecting the environment...

Approximately 85,000 households on the Island of Montréal have a wood-burning fireplace or stove. When used in cold weather, these appliances release invisible fine particles into the air, seriously affecting the quality of the air we breathe.

Last winter, residential wood-burning appliances contributed to the 47 smog warnings in Montréal...

... and your health!

A wood-burning fireplace may seem romantic, cozy and harmless. Truth is, it releases emissions containing more than 100 toxic compounds, including fine particles, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and irritants. Some of these substances are carcinogenic, while other fine particles with a diameter smaller than a hair may be inhaled deep into the respiratory system and affect your health.

Do you use a wood-burning fireplace or stove in your home?

In Montréal, save exceptions, it is now prohibited to install a fireplace or any solid-fuel-burning equipment inside a building. If you already own one of these appliances, here is how you may reduce the impact of their use on air quality in your neighbourhood:

- Use them less often.
- Use another type of heating, especially on smog days.
- Never burn waste, plastic, painted or treated wood, because they release toxic substances.
- Replace your conventional wood-burning fireplace or stove with a gas or pellet appliance.

Do you want to upgrade your heating system? You may be eligible for financial assistance.

Please call the Agence de l'efficacité énergétique du Québec at 1 866 266-0008, or dial 1 800 O-Canada for information on federal programs.

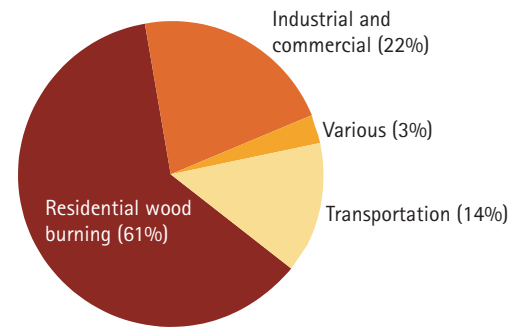
True or False?

Winter smog is caused mainly by automobiles and transportation.

False. Winter smog is caused by a high concentration of fine particles that are released mainly by residential wood-burning appliances.

Annual emission of fine particles

Source: NPRI, Environment Canada, 2006



My fireplace does not affect air quality inside my home. Closing the door of my wood-burning stove prevents pollutants from being released indoors.

False. Most wood stoves release pollutants inside the home, even if they are well insulated or the door is closed. In fact, wood heating may affect air quality indoors even more than outdoors. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to this form of pollution.

Smoke from chimneys may enter homes and become a health hazard.

True. Air pollution may affect air quality indoors and aggravate health problems such as asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and heart disease.

Our ancestors heated with wood and it didn't kill them. Aren't we exaggerating a bit?

False. Recent studies on the harmful effects of smoke particles on human health show a direct connection between wood burning and a number of health disorders.

Burning dry wood and controlling combustion can help prevent harmful emissions into the air.

False. It is extremely important to burn dry, clean wood and control combustion adequately. Burning wood releases minute pollutants that are virtually invisible and can be inhaled deep into the respiratory system.

Find out about air quality on the Island of Montréal

Réseau de surveillance de la qualité de l'air: www.rsqa.qc.ca

Info-Smog: www.qc.ec.gc.ca/atmos/smog

Find out about the effects of air pollution on health

Direction de santé publique (DSP) of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal: www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca

Quebec Lung Association: www.pq.poumon.ca

Find out about the By-law concerning solid-fuel-burning equipment

Please visit: ville.montreal.qc.ca/chauffagea bois, or call 311