



Wood-Burning *Stove* Installation

From preparation to first burn — a step-by-step guide covering flue systems, regulations, costs, and ongoing care.

How is a wood-burning stove installed?

Whether you're planning a full twin-wall flue setup or connecting to an existing chimney, this guide explains everything you need to know about installing a wood-burning stove — step by step, from preparation to first burn.

From the soft crackle of burning logs to the comforting glow that fills the room, it's no surprise that wood-burning stoves remain one of the UK's most loved home upgrades. But installing one correctly isn't just about ambience — it's about safety, efficiency, and compliance with UK Building Regulations.

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01 Planning Your Stove Setup

Before anything else, you'll need to choose where your stove will go, and that's about more than just looks.



Choosing the Right Location

Your stove must be positioned where it can heat the space evenly, vent efficiently, and meet safety distances from flammable materials.

- Clearances: Most stoves need at least 150mm clearance at the sides and at least 300mm in front of the stove opening.
- Airflow: Avoid tight alcoves or sealed corners — proper airflow helps combustion and prevents smoke spillage.
- Focal point: Central walls or existing chimney breasts make ideal anchor points.

Ventilation & Room Size

Every stove needs oxygen to burn fuel efficiently. Modern homes with airtight insulation may require a dedicated air vent or direct air kit.

- Stoves rated above 5kW usually require a permanent air vent.
- Some Ecodesign models offer external air supply systems for improved efficiency.
- Use a heat output calculator to match your stove's kW rating to your room size — too small, and you'll struggle to stay warm; too large, and you'll waste fuel.

02 What You'll Need for Installation

Before fitting can begin, make sure you've got all the core components ready.



PART	PURPOSE	NOTES
The Stove	Your chosen wood-burner	Choose size & output suitable for room
Hearth	Non-combustible base	Stone, slate, or glass; minimum 12mm thick for some models
Flue Pipe & Liner	Directs smoke out	316-grade (standard) or 904-grade (high-temp) stainless steel
Register Plate	Seals chimney base	Prevents smoke and heat escaping upward
Chimney Cap / Cowl	Stops rain and debris	Also prevents downdraught
Fireproof Sealant	Seals joints	Must be high-temperature resistant
CO Detector	Safety device	Required by UK law in all rooms with solid-fuel appliances

PRO TIP Always check your flue diameter matches your stove outlet — typically 5" (125mm) or 6" (150mm).

03 Understanding Flue Systems

A flue system safely channels smoke and gases outside. It's the backbone of any stove setup.

If You Have a Chimney

You'll likely need a flexible stainless-steel flue liner inserted inside your chimney.

- Improves draught and heat retention.
- Prevents gases escaping through cracked mortar.
- Simplifies chimney sweeping.



If You Don't Have a Chimney

You'll need a twin-wall flue system — an insulated metal pipe that mimics a traditional chimney. Twin wall flues can run internally through floors and ceilings for better heat retention, or externally up the outside wall for easier installation. Both must terminate at least 600mm above the roofline and be 4.5m tall minimum for proper draw.

Why Draught Matters

A strong, consistent draught improves stove efficiency, reduces smoke backflow, and minimises creosote build-up (which can become a fire risk). If your flue isn't drawing well, your installer may recommend a chimney fan or anti-downdraught cowl.

04 Preparing for Installation Day

Before the stove arrives, a bit of prep work will make everything smoother.



Chimney Inspection

If you have an existing chimney:

- Book a professional chimney sweep to remove soot or creosote.
- Repair cracks or loose bricks before lining.
- Check for damp or staining that might indicate leaks.

Flooring & Hearth

Your stove must sit on a non-combustible base such as slate, granite, or concrete.

- Minimum hearth depth: 840mm (freestanding) or 125mm beyond the door (recessed).
- For some freestanding models, a 12mm glass hearth is sufficient — always check manufacturer guidelines.

Ventilation Review

Check for existing air vents and ensure they're unobstructed. In modern airtight homes, your installer may recommend a direct air supply kit for optimal performance.

05 Installing Without a Chimney

Not every home has a chimney — but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy a wood burner.

A twin-wall flue system creates a safe, insulated flue route where none exists.

The Installation Process

- Position the stove on its hearth.
- Attach the flue pipe to the stove outlet.
- Route the flue vertically through the roof (internal) or externally via the wall.
- Install brackets for support every 1.8–2m.
- Seal all air openings using fireproof mortar.
- Cap the flue with a rain and bird guard.

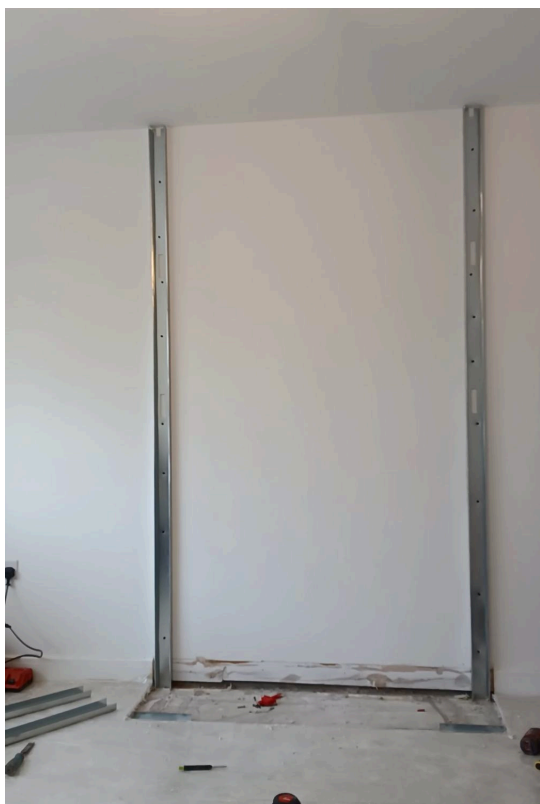


06 Building a False Chimney Breast

Want the traditional look without the original chimney? Build a false chimney breast around your stove.

Design Considerations

- Use fire-rated board or cement board, not plasterboard.
- Allow safe clearance around the stove (typically 150mm sides and rear).
- Include a removable access panel for flue cleaning.
- Add alcove shelving or a beam for a media wall effect.



PRO TIP A twin-wall flue system is required inside a false chimney. Always have it signed off by a HETAS installer.

07 Regulations & Safety Standards

Installing or altering a flue system in the UK is covered by Building Regulations Part J.



Key Requirements

- HETAS certification or local Building Control approval is mandatory.
- Carbon monoxide alarms must be installed in any room containing a solid-fuel appliance.
- Smoke tests must be completed before sign-off.
- Flues must terminate at correct heights to prevent downdraught.

PRO TIP Using a HETAS-registered installer means your installation is automatically self-certified under Part J.

08 Typical Installation Costs

Installation costs can vary based on your setup, location, and complexity. Always request itemised quotes from at least two certified installers.

EXISTING CHIMNEY SETUP

£1,200 –
£1,800

Stove connection, liner,
seaming, smoke test

NO CHIMNEY (TWIN WALL)

£2,000 –
£3,000

Full flue run, brackets,
termination, sign-off

FALSE CHIMNEY BREAST

£2,500 –
£4,000

Framework, boarding, flue
integration

PRO TIP Costs exclude the stove itself and can vary by region.

09 Aftercare & First Burn

Once your stove is installed and signed off, it's time for the fun part — lighting it.



The First Burn

- Expect a slight odour as paint cures — this is normal.
- Start with small, dry logs and build it up gradually.
- Keep windows cracked open during the first few uses.

Ongoing Maintenance

- Sweep your flue at least once a year (more if you burn daily).
- Burn only seasoned logs (<20% moisture).
- Empty ash pan regularly and check door seals.

10 Why Use a Professional Installer

While it's legal to fit your own stove under certain conditions, most homeowners choose a HETAS-registered installer for safety, compliance, and insurance reasons.

Benefits of Using a Professional

- Compliance with Building Regs Part J
- Expert knowledge of clearances and ventilation
- Insurance coverage if something goes wrong
- Aftercare advice for safe operation and maintenance



PRO TIP A poorly fitted stove can leak carbon monoxide, damage your property, and invalidate your home insurance.

SUMMARY

Safe, Stylish, and *Sustainable* Warmth

Installing a wood-burning stove the right way transforms your home — not just in comfort and style, but in long-term safety and efficiency. Whether you're renovating a cottage fireplace or creating a contemporary false chimney wall, always follow building regulations, use quality components, and trust experienced professionals.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I install a wood-burning stove myself in the UK?

Yes, but you must notify your local Building Control and pass a smoke test. Using a HETAS installer is strongly recommended — they can self-certify the work, avoiding the need for separate Building Control sign-off.

Do I need planning permission for a wood-burning stove?

Usually not for a standard installation, but if your home is listed or in a conservation area, check with your local authority. External twin-wall flues on listed buildings may require permission.

How long does installation take?

A typical installation with an existing chimney takes 1–2 days. A twin-wall or false chimney breast build may take 2–4 days depending on complexity.

What fuel should I use?

Seasoned hardwood with less than 20% moisture content is ideal. Avoid wet, treated, or painted wood. In Smoke Control Areas, only use DEFRA-approved fuels or Ecodesign stoves.
