



BIOMASS



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WIND

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Around the state and across the country, people are turning to wood pellet stoves and furnaces for comfortable home heating. Wood pellets are made of wood left over from sawmills, wood products manufacturing and construction. This wood has traditionally been landfilled, but with modern pelletizing techniques it is recycled to provide an excellent source of heat for Wisconsin's homes.

REASONS TO BURN WOOD PELLETS

Aesthetics

Wood pellets allow homeowners to enjoy a cozy wood fire in a beautiful stove.

Environment

Pellets are made of clean, local, recycled materials. By burning wood pellets you keep this material out of landfills and incinerators. No new trees are cut down to produce pellets and no additives are used because the wood's natural glues hold them together.

Cost

While pellets may not always be the cheapest method to heat your home, many other benefits make them a desirable option throughout Wisconsin. The cost of pellets depends on the season and your distance from the manufacturer. One 40-pound bag, a typical quantity for a winter day, can cost between \$2 and \$4.

WOOD PELLET STOVES

Wood pellet stoves are both attractive and practical. Some stoves are designed to fit directly into your fireplace. A single freestanding stove can heat a smaller house, while a larger house might require a wood pellet furnace.

The first residential wood pellet stoves were available in 1983. In 1997-1998, 690,000 tons of wood pellets and 40,000 pellet stoves and furnaces were sold nationwide. Other countries have begun using wood pellets as well. Sweden, with only nine million people, now burns more wood pellets than the United States.



HEARTH, PATIO & BARBECUE ASSOCIATION

This stylish fireplace insert combines the charm of a traditional hearth with the heating efficiency of a pellet stove.

Pellet-burning stoves and furnaces offer a number of conveniences. Pellets are fed automatically from the hopper to the combustion chamber. The small size of the chamber and the control of the fuel supply allows a proper fuel-to-air ratio, producing a hot fire that burns the wood's gases before they escape as smoke. The latest models can burn various qualities of fuel and have larger hoppers and more convenient ash removal.

BENEFITS OF WOOD PELLETS OVER TRADITIONAL CORD WOOD

Ease

Wood pellet stoves and furnaces require only 10 to 20 minutes of your time per day to operate. Pellets load easily once a day or less and produce little ash. The stove or furnace can be cleaned



HEARTH, PATIO & BARBECUE ASSOCIATION

Wood waste, such as sawdust, and other waste materials, including paper and cardboard, are compressed to form the pellets.



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The power is within you.

once a month or less, does not require tending or stoking, can be run off the thermostat and will start up with the flick of a switch.

Quality

Pellets are consistent in size, dryness and density. Their small size allows for efficient burning with little residue. Pellets are dried in the manufactur-

ing process, giving them a moisture content typically under 10 percent. Their high density makes them a predictable resource for burning. National industry standards allow for consistent quality from brand to brand.

Efficiency and safety

Pellet stoves are eight to ten times more efficient than fireplaces, up to three times more efficient than woodstoves, and similar in efficiency to natural gas furnaces. There is very little creosote buildup, drastically reducing the chance of chimney fires and the frequency of cleanings. Built-in heat shields prevent accidental burns and allow stoves to be placed near walls.

Convenience

Pellets are purchased in 40-pound bags from your local hardware or specialty store and can be delivered to you on a pallet. Pellets need to be kept dry but require about one-third the storage space of cord wood. Plus, there are no splinters, dirt or bugs. The area around your hearth can remain clean and tidy.

Statistics about wood pellets and stoves	
PELLETS	
Size:	1.5" maximum length and 1/4" or 5/16" in diameter
Heat:	8,000 to 9,000 Btu per pound of pellets
Density:	minimum 40 pounds per cubic foot
Composition:	Sawdust, tree bark, and paper and cardboard, depending on grade.
Cost:	\$2.30 to \$4.00 per bag; \$120 to \$200 per ton
STOVES	
Efficiency:	98.5 percent combustion efficiency; 80 percent to 85 percent overall efficiency
Ash:	For standard grade, up to three percent. For premium grade, less than one percent.
Cost:	\$1,300 to \$2,600 for free-standing stove (uninstalled)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 1.800.762.7077 or visit www.focusonenergy.com.