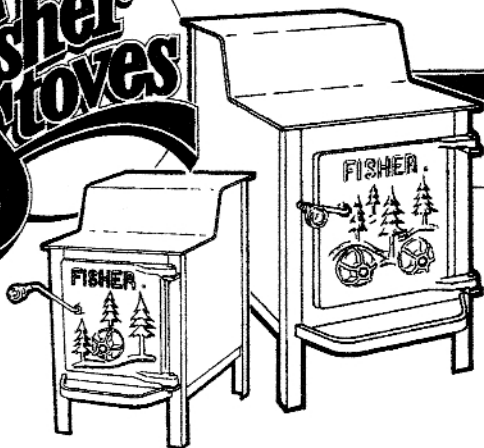


**Fisher**  
**Stoves**



BABY BEAR® VI

MAMA BEAR® VI

PAPA BEAR® VI

## OWNER'S MANUAL



BEAR VI SERIES LISTED NO. MH 11238

ASSEMBLY / INSTALLATION / OPERATION  
MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

© Copyright Fisher Stoves® International, Inc. 1978 - All Rights Reserved

FISHER STOVE WORKS • P.O. BOX 10806 • EUGENE, OR 97440

File MH10876  
Vol. 1  
Sec. 1  
ILL. B

## THANK YOU . . .

. . . for purchasing a FISHER STOVE and welcome to the growing family of wood-burning stove owners. Considering the cost of oil, gas and electric heat, it's easy to see why hundreds of thousands of homeowners across North America have recently installed a wood stove.

The FISHER STOVE is not an ordinary wood stove. It has incorporated into its design a unique two-step combustion chamber which re-circulates wood gases back into the flames for almost total combustion. The result is more heat and fewer ashes.

Other outstanding features include a triple-sealed door which helps keep air out — smoke in; double-latch door opening assures safest approach into firebox for re-fueling; firebrick lining to eliminate burn-outs; two cooking surfaces with two temperatures; patented E-Z Spin™ draft controls and virtually airtight construction to control the amount of air actually reaching the fire. Extra heat shields provide protection for floor surfaces and its carefully welded mild steel plate construction will allow every FISHER STOVE to deliver years of remarkable heating efficiency.

Besides saving you money on your heating bill, the FISHER STOVE will allow many to rediscover the joys of wood stove cooking.

This OWNER'S MANUAL has been carefully written. The Table of Contents sets out, item by item, General information, Installation Instructions, and Operating and Maintenance Instructions. We urge you to read it carefully before initiating actual installation work.

We wish you many happy years of heating with your new FISHER STOVE.

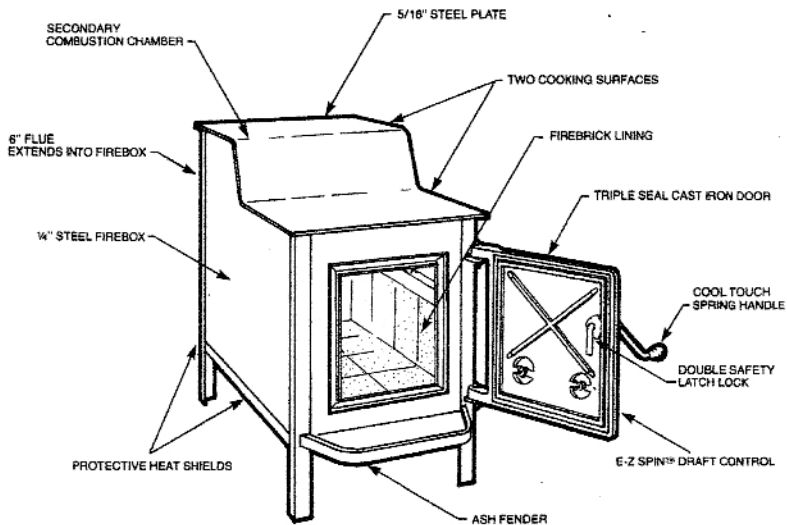
**FISHER STOVES. AN IDEA AMERICA IS WARMING UP TO.**

# OWNER'S MANUAL

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>I. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>                            | <b>1</b>  |
| DO'S   | 1         |
| DON'TS   | 1         |
| REVIEW OF CORRECT MODEL SELECTION                        | 1         |
| <b>II. INSTALLATIONS &amp; ASSEMBLY</b>                  | <b>2</b>  |
| COMPONENTS — DEFINITION                                  | 2         |
| COMPONENTS — SELECTION                                   | 2         |
| TYPES OF METAL CHIMNEY INSTALLATIONS                     | 3         |
| CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLES CHARTS                         | 4-6       |
| SIDEWALL, BACKWALL INSTALLATION CHECKLIST                | 7         |
| CORNER INSTALLATION                                      | 7         |
| INSTALLATION TO EXISTING FIREPLACES AND MASONRY CHIMNEYS | 7         |
| FIREBRICK INSTALLATION                                   | 8-10      |
| SPRING HANDLE INSTALLATION                               | 11        |
| REMOVAL OF SHIPPING PACKAGING                            | 11        |
| DOOR LATCH   | 12        |
| HEAT SHIELDS   | 12        |
| <b>III. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS</b>                       | <b>13</b> |
| PAINT ODOR DURING START UP                               | 13        |
| TO LIGHT A FIRE  | 13        |
| TO CHECK EXISTING FIRE                                   | 13        |
| ASHES  | 13        |
| USE WITH COAL  | 13-14     |
| TROUBLE SHOOTING   | 14-15     |
| <b>IV. MAINTENANCE</b>                                   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>V. SAFETY GUIDELINES</b>                              | <b>17</b> |
| <b>VI. WOOD</b>  | <b>18</b> |

## BEAR VI SERIES



### FISHER FACTS

- ① UNIQUE FISHER TWO-STEP DESIGN PROVIDES A SECONDARY COMBUSTION CHAMBER WHICH PROMOTES ALMOST TOTAL COMBUSTION WITH VERY LITTLE ASH RESIDUE.
- ② FLUE EXTENDS INTO FIREBOX, CONCENTRATING HEAT IN CENTER OF STOVE WHICH MEANS THE HEAT IS DISTRIBUTED EVENLY. VERY LITTLE HEAT IS LOST UP THE CHIMNEY.
- ③ FIREBOX, LINED WITH FIREBRICK ON BOTTOM AND SIDES, PREVENTS BURNOUT.
- ④ UNIQUE, PATENTED E-Z SPIN™ DRAFT CONTROL KNOBS ALLOW YOU TO "FINE TUNE" BURNING RATE TO A VERY EFFICIENT BURNING MINIMUM. KNOBS STAY COOL DURING OPERATION.
- ⑤ VIRTUALLY SMOKELESS WHEN PROPERLY INSTALLED.
- ⑥ TWO LEVEL, 5/16" THICK STEEL TOP PROVIDES TWO COOKING SURFACES AND TWO COOKING TEMPERATURES.
- ⑦ HEAT SHIELDS ASSIST IN REDIRECTING FLOOR HEAT BACK INTO ROOM BY NATURAL CONVECTION.
- ⑧ DUAL ACTION DOOR LATCH PROVIDES EXTRA MEASURE OF SAFETY WHEN OPENING THE STOVE DOOR.

#### PAPA BEAR™

Width — 20"  
 Length — 36 1/4"  
 Takes Max 30" Wood  
 6" Flue Size

#### MAMA BEAR™

Width — 17 1/2"  
 Length — 35 1/4"  
 Takes Max 24" Wood  
 6" Flue Size

#### BABY BEAR™

Width — 15 1/2"  
 Length — 27 1/4"  
 Takes Max 18" Wood  
 6" Flue Size

# OWNER'S MANUAL

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Congratulations! You have made a wise decision. The Fisher Stove is one of the most efficient, versatile and highest quality radiant heaters available. We're confident your Fisher Stove will provide you years of warm comfort and safe heat when installed according to these instruc-

tions. There are a few basic DO'S and DON'TS when installing and using wood burning stoves. Please read and follow these basic rules. Remember, most fires are caused by inadequate chimneys and improper clearance from combustibles.

### DO'S

1. Do comply with state and local codes.
2. Do contact your local building official for installation approval. A building permit may be required when installing your Fisher Stove.
3. Do check with a reputable chimney contractor when using an existing chimney.
4. Do locate your Fisher Stove as close as possible to the center of the area that you intend to heat. The efficiency and radiant heat from the heavy steel and cast iron will generally heat adjacent rooms adequately.
5. Do read and follow these instructions completely before installing your stove.

### DON'TS

1. Do not install your stove without first checking with local building officials to determine if a building permit is required.
2. Do not locate your stove closer to combustible materials than shown in the diagram for your stove model.
3. When installing a new chimney, cut as few structural members as necessary and avoid wiring, plumbing pipes or duct work.

## REVIEW OF CORRECT MODEL SELECTION

Before proceeding with the installation of your Fisher Stove, let's review your choice of model. We want you to be happy and satisfied with your Fisher.

1. The Fisher Stove is an extremely efficient radiant heater. The actual physical size of the stove in relation to the area it will heat might appear deceiving. However, if you have selected a model too large for the actual area to be heated, it will be necessary to operate the stove in a 'choked down' condition. Over a period of time, excessive creosote buildup in the chimney may result. Equally important, is not to select a model too small in relation to the area it is to heat.
2. Because of the large mass and long duration of heat source of the stove, the radiant heat capability will heat adjacent rooms better than most thin-wall steel or cast iron stoves.
3. The following areas are approximate and based on eight-foot ceilings with normal construction and insulation in outside walls and ceilings. Variables may include ceiling height, window glazing, storm doors, storm windows, weather stripping, porous block walls and other infiltration rates, and degree day climate.

### SINGLE DOOR RADIANT HEATERS

Approximate Square Footage Heating Capacity

|                               |                                |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Baby Bear<br>900-1250 Sq. Ft. | Mama Bear<br>1250-1750 Sq. Ft. | Papa Bear<br>1750-2250 Sq. Ft. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

### DOUBLE DOOR FIREPLACE/RADIANT HEATERS

Approximate Square Footage Heating Capacity

|                                      |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| *Goldlocks Model<br>900-1250 Sq. Ft. | Grandma Bear<br>Fireplace<br>1250-1750 Sq. Ft. | Grandpa Bear<br>Fireplace<br>1750-2250 Sq. Ft. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|

\*Goldlocks Model™ conforms to all HUD Safety and Construction Standards for installation in mobile homes.

NOTE: IF YOUR MODEL DOES NOT MATCH UP WITH THE ABOVE AREAS, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR DEALER FOR A RE-EVALUATION.

## II. INSTALLATIONS

### SELECTION OF COMPONENTS

#### HEARTH EXTENSION OR FLOOR PROTECTOR

**Material:** Minimum 3/8" asbestos millboard plus an additional layer of non-combustible surface would be desirable. SUCH AS: Brick, tile, stone, concrete, sheet metal or other non-combustible materials.

**NOTE:** Combustible materials such as sawdust impregnated with non-flammable materials are not satisfactory.

**Minimum Size:**

|                               |                           |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baby Bear VI<br>31 1/2" x 55" | Mama Bear VI<br>35" x 61" | Papa Bear VI<br>36" x 66" |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

The above hearth dimensions were computed to allow that the floor mat should extend 18" in front of the stove as measured from the legs and 8" to each side of the stove, and the distance from the rear legs should be 17".

#### CHIMNEY CONNECTOR

##### DO'S

1. Do select 6' low carbon, aluminumized, or stainless steel, 24 gauge minimum chimney connector.
2. Do select same size pipe as outlet from stove.
3. Do check to be sure pipe extends at least two inches into chimney.
4. Do make sure a good seal is made the entire length of the seam if snap lock seam type is used.
5. Do make sure there is a good seal between joints.
6. Do secure each connection with sheet metal screws.

##### DON'TS

1. Do not use galvanized pipe. Zinc fumes are toxic and galvanizing will run when chimney gets excessively hot or overheated.
2. Do not use type "B" pipe which is used for venting gas appliances.
3. Do not use more than one stove per chimney.

#### CHIMNEY

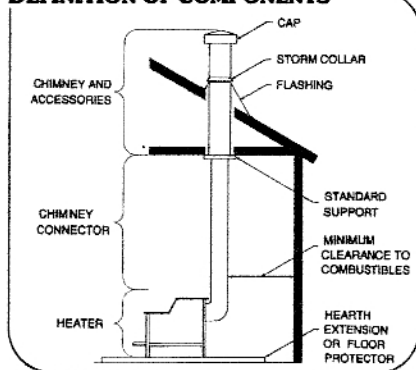
##### DO'S

1. Do use a UL listed factory built, residential type and building heating appliance chimney as referenced in the UL Gas and Oil Directory.
2. Do use a non-thermal siphoning U.L. listed chimney.
3. Do follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully, paying particular attention to the minimum clearances to combustibles.

#### SPARK ARRESTER

1. A spark arrester in the chimney cap may be required by local codes and government regulations.
2. This component should be inspected and cleaned regularly to insure against the occurrence of creosote build-up or clogging.

#### DEFINITION OF COMPONENTS



##### PIPE DIRECTION

The crimped or smallest diameter end is called the male end and is inserted into larger diameter size of pipe section.

##### Male end-up installation:

**Pro:** This is the way most pipe installations are made and are easy to install.

**Con:** There may be leakage of creosote or condensation around the connections.

##### Male end-down installation:

**Pro:** This directs creosote or condensation back into the stove and is consumed.

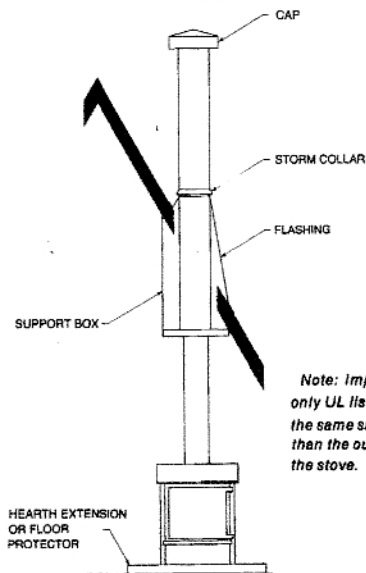
**Con:** This installation may require a special adapter, converting inside diameter to outside diameter, at the stove or at the connection between the chimney connector and the chimney.

Some chimney manufacturers, such as Dura-Vent, make pipe and adapters that connect easily and maintain an internal drip free male connector down configuration.

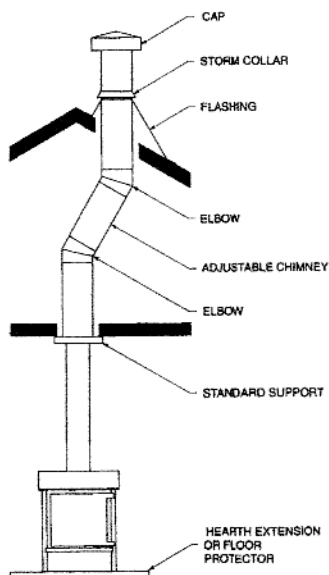
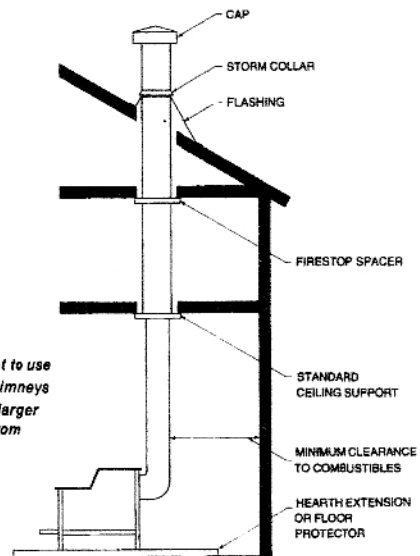
##### DON'TS

1. We do not recommend the use of chimneys that utilize the principle of "thermal siphon." The thermal siphon type of chimney is a triple-wall pipe that operates by circulating air internally down between the outside and intermediate layer, then up between the inner and intermediate layer. This type cools the flue products excessively and could result in condensations and creosote.

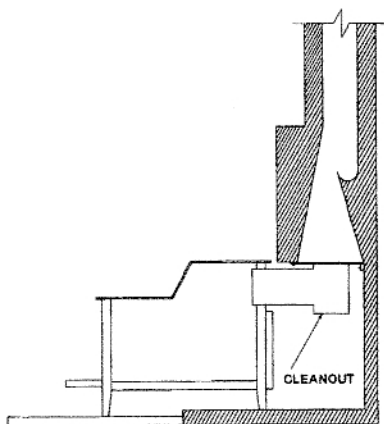
## TYPES OF METAL CHIMNEY INSTALLATIONS



*Note: Important to use only UL listed chimneys the same size or larger than the outlet from the stove.*



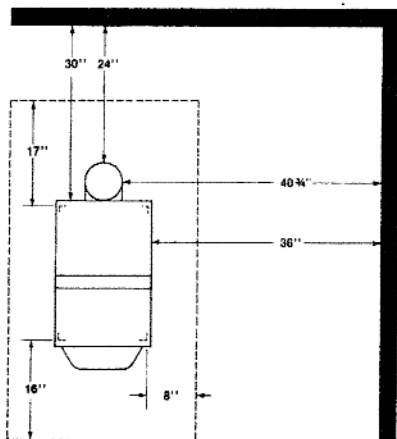
## INSTALLATION WITH MASONRY CHIMNEY



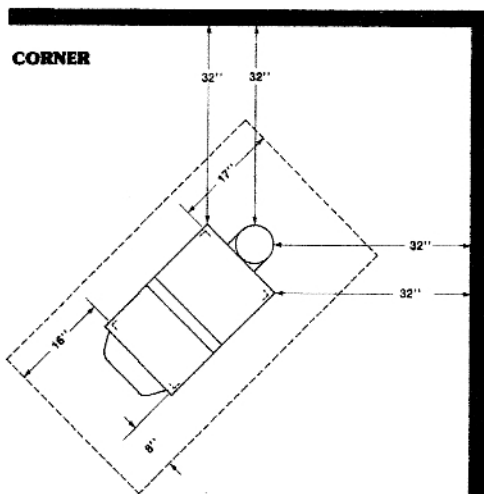
**CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLES CHARTS:**

**BABY BEAR VI** CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLE SURFACES AND HEARTH EXTENSION OR FLOOR PROTECTOR

**SIDEWALL, BACKWALL**



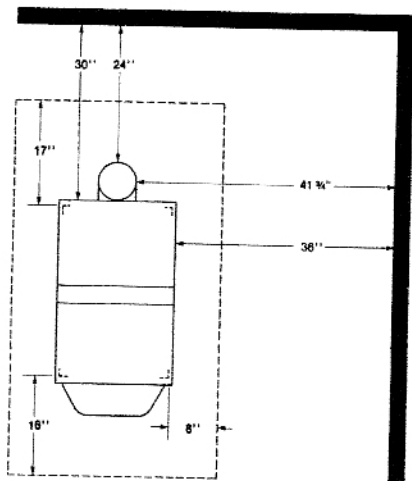
**CORNER**



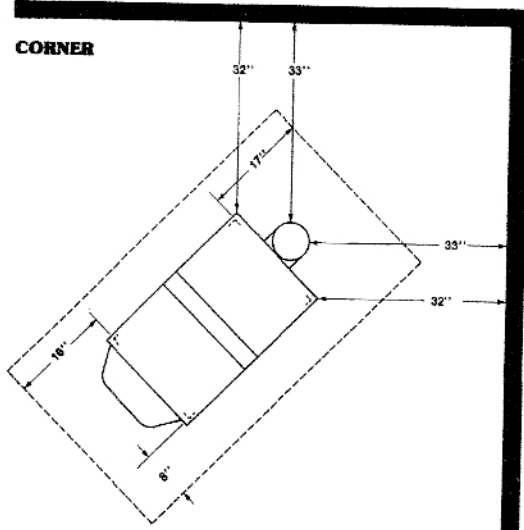


**MAMA BEAR VI** CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLE SURFACES AND HEARTH EXTENSION OR FLOOR PROTECTOR

**SIDEWALL, BACKWALL**

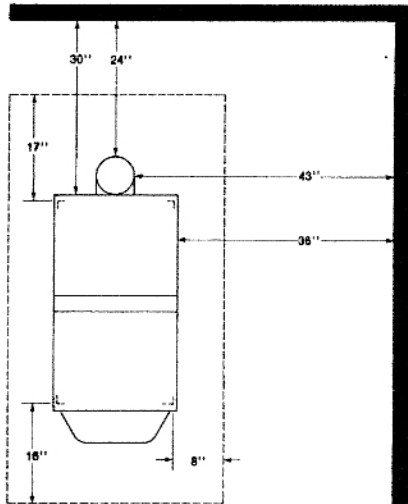


**CORNER**

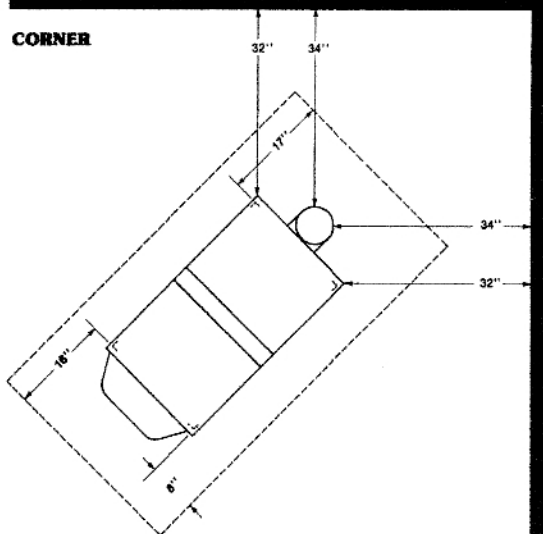


**PAPA BEAR VI** CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLE SURFACES AND HEARTH EXTENSION OR FLOOR PROTECTOR

**SIDEWALL, BACKWALL**



**CORNER**



## SIDEWALL, BACKWALL INSTALLATION CHECK-LIST

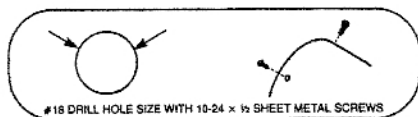
- 1. After selecting the location for your Fisher Stove, set the unit in place. Check minimum clearance chart for your particular model.
- 2. Using a "plumb bob", mark a point on the ceiling indicating the center of the chimney. When suspended from the ceiling, the tip of the "plumb bob" should be in the exact center of the flue on the unit. This will insure perfect vertical alignment.
- 3. After determining that the area above the ceiling is clear for cutting, again check that the clearance from the unit to combustible materials are within the prescribed limits.

- 4. Install chimney following the instructions provided by the chimney manufacturer.

**CAUTION:** The chimney must be the same size as the flue outlet on the stove. The chimney must be Underwriters Laboratories listed as a factory built, residential type and building heating appliance chimney. For other types of chimneys, check with your local officials. **DO NOT** confuse a chimney with a Type "B" venting system used for gas appliances.

- 5. Using the "plumb bob", check that the flue outlet of your Fisher Stove is centered exactly under the center of the chimney.
- 6. Mark around each leg of the heater leaving a mark on the floor. Then move the radiant heater aside and outline location of floor mat.
- 7. From the legs, the floor mat or hearth extension or floor protector should be at least 16" in front of the stove, 8" to each side and 17" from the rear.

- 8. When the hearth extension or floor protector is complete, set the radiant heater in place with the flue outlet directly under the chimney.
- 9. Install the chimney connector. The chimney connector must be a painted low carbon steel or aluminized steel material. The chimney connector must extend up into the chimney at least two inches. For appearance, place the seams to the rear.  
**CAUTION: DO NOT USE GALVANIZED PIPE.**
- 10. Secure adjacent sections of chimney connector to each other using three sheetmetal screws equally spaced around the pipe at each joint. Secure the chimney connector to the flue collar using at least two sheet metal screws. We recommend that 10-24 x 1/2" sheet metal screws be used. A #18 drill (.169) is suggested as shown in the appropriate illustration. An alternate would be an 11/64" hole.



- 11. **WARNING:** Do not operate room heater until the firebrick is properly installed. See installation instructions.
- 12. Carefully read "Operating Instructions", "Use with Coal Instructions," and "Maintenance Instructions."

Your Fisher Stove is now ready for use.

## CORNER INSTALLATION

Refer to the instructions covering the Sidewall-Backwall Installation. The same steps will apply except the heater will now be positioned in a corner facing at an angle of 45 degrees to the two sidewalls.

Check the minimum clearance chart for your particular model.

## INSTALLATION TO EXISTING FIREPLACES AND MASONRY CHIMNEYS

Since there are many ways to install your Fisher Stove, contacting your local building official for approval is very important.

The 1976 edition of the Uniform Mechanical Code, Section 915, paragraph E [Entering Masonry Chimney] states:

"A connector entering a masonry chimney shall extend through the wall to the inner face of the liner, but not beyond, and shall be firmly cemented to masonry. A thimble may be used to facilitate removal of the connector for cleaning. In which case the thimble shall be permanently cemented in place with high temperature cement. The chimney connector shall enter the chimney not less than six inches from the bottom of the chimney.

The chimney shall be provided with a cleanout. If six inches are not available, a cleanout shall be provided by installing a capped tee in the connector next to the chimney."

Paragraph I [Fireplace Connection] also states:

"A chimney connector shall not be connected to a chimney flue serving a fireplace unless the fireplace opening is sealed or the chimney flue which vents the fireplace is permanently sealed below the connection."

Specified types of installation and chimney condition should be approved BEFORE attempting to use existing fireplace and masonry chimney.

## FIREBRICK INSTALLATION

There are ASMT C-27 or C-64 firebricks installed in the stove. Bricks are identified with the word **FLAME** imprinted on each brick or the marking "Clow Corp. Dover, Ohio Unbranded Low Duty Firebrick" marked on each package of brick.

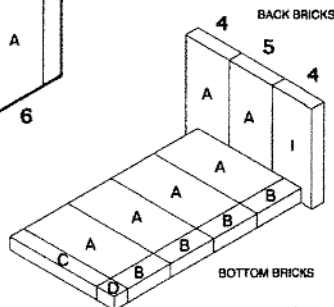
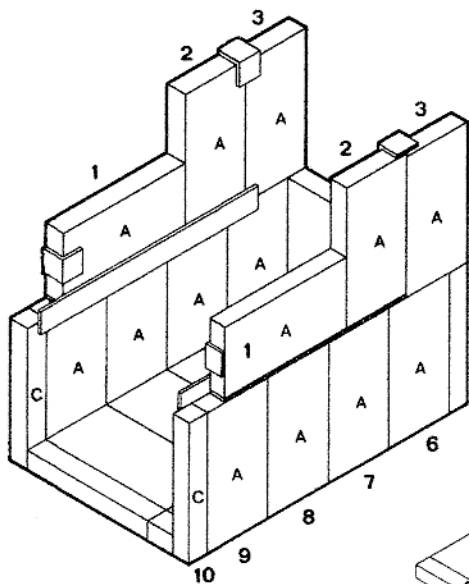
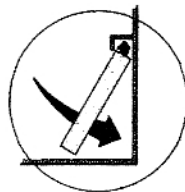
The firebrick has been precut to the required sizes to

provide for ready installation. If for some reason the brick is not properly sized, do not attempt to cut brick yourself. Return the brick to the dealer for the proper size.

The brick layout for each model is shown. When the sequence of installation would make the installation easier the numbers are so indicated.

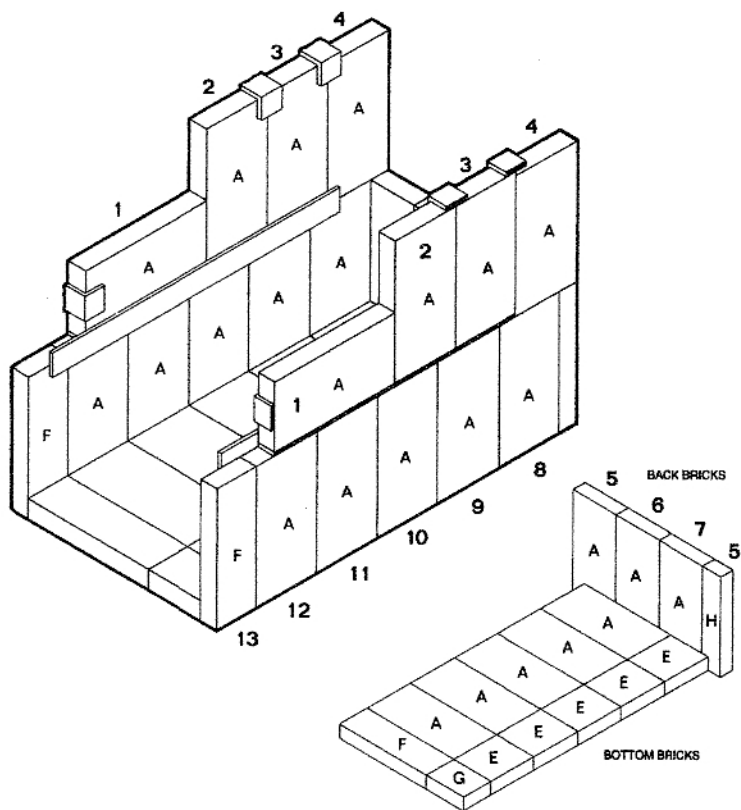
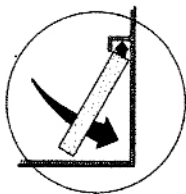
### BABY BEAR VI

| FIREBRICK | SIZE                     | REQ'D |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| A         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2" x 9"     | 20    |
| B         | 1 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 4 1/2" | 4     |
| C         | 1 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 9"     | 3     |
| D         | 1 1/4" x 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" | 1     |
| I         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2" x 8"     | 1     |



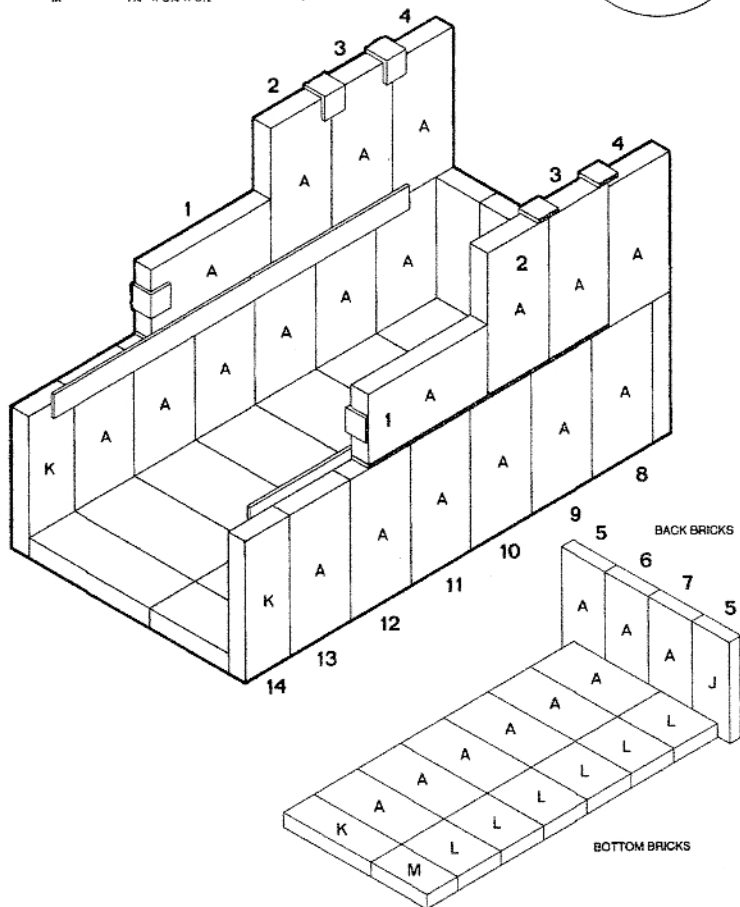
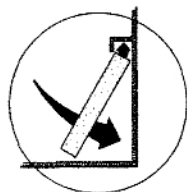
# MAMA BEAR VI

| FIREBRICK | SIZE                   | REQ'D |
|-----------|------------------------|-------|
| A         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2 x 9     | 26    |
| E         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2 x 3 3/4 | 5     |
| F         | 1 1/4" x 9 x 2 1/4     | 3     |
| G         | 1 1/4" x 2 1/4 x 3 3/4 | 1     |
| H         | 1 1/4" x 9 x 1 1/4     | 1     |



# PAPA BEAR VI

| FIREBRICK | SIZE                     | REQ'D |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| A         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2" x 9"     | 29    |
| J         | 1 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 9"     | 1     |
| K         | 1 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 9"     | 3     |
| L         | 1 1/4" x 4 1/2" x 5 1/2" | 6     |
| M         | 1 1/4" x 3 1/4" x 5 1/2" | 1     |



## SPRING HANDLE

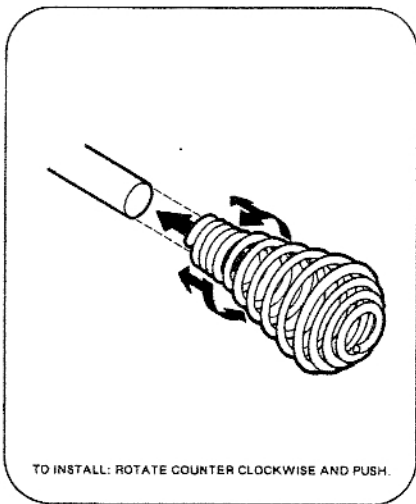
The Fisher Stoves exclusive spring handle has been designed to provide a "cool" feel to the touch. This is accomplished by the following techniques:

1. A special non-conducting material is used to coat the handle. This minimizes conduction of heat from the stove into the spring handle and ultimately to the skin contact.
2. The "open coil" design provides a dissipation of convection heat and the shape is comfortable to hold with the hand.
3. The highly reflective finish reflects radiant heat from the stove and consequently does not absorb the heat.

### TO INSTALL THE SPRING HANDLE

The small end of the handle is designed to act like a spring-loaded corkscrew. Note that the inside diameter of the spring handle is slightly smaller than the handle rod.

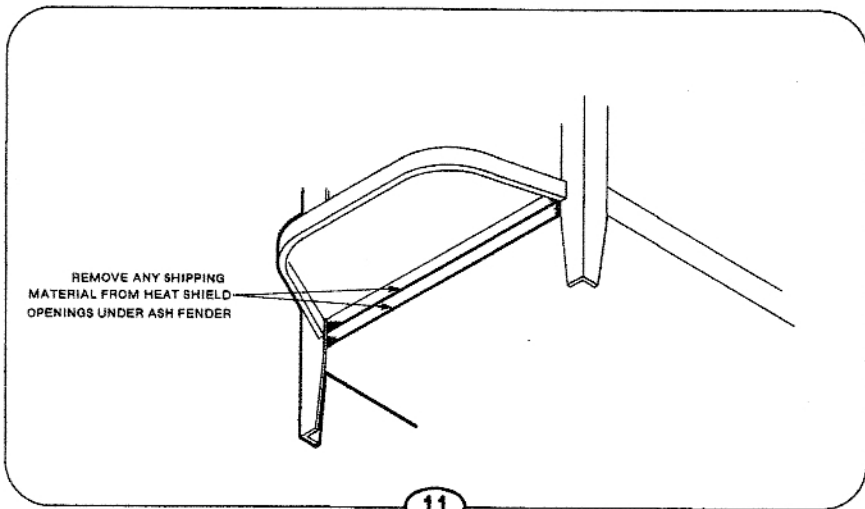
To install the spring handle onto the rod, rotate the handle in a counter-clockwise direction until the spring opens up, then push onto the handle rod. It will remain tightly affixed when installed in this manner.



## REMOVAL OF SHIPPING PACKAGING

There may be spacers inserted between the heat shield and the bottom of the stove to protect the stove and shield during shipment.

To remove simply pull out. All packing material should be eliminated between the two shields.



## ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURES

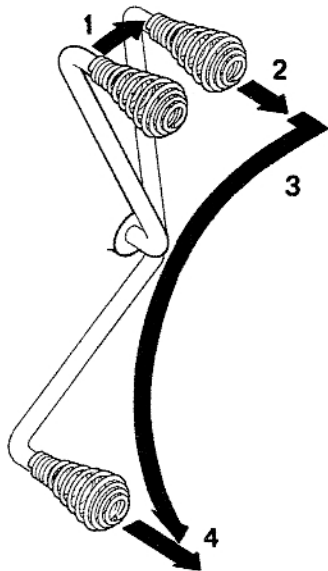
### DOOR LATCH

Dual action door latch provides extra measure of safety when opening the stove door.

Directions: Lift or raise handle and pull. Door will open one inch and stop. Rotate handle in the opposite direction and door opens easily. When closing door reverse the procedure.

By creating a point of hesitation in the process of the opening of the door, the possibility of smoke or flame being drawn from the opening is eliminated.

1. LIFT OR RAISE HANDLE.
2. PULL. DOOR WILL OPEN 1" AND STOP.
3. ROTATE HANDLE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
4. DOOR OPENS EASILY.

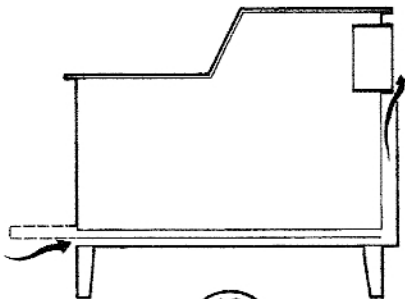


### HEAT SHIELDS

Heat shields constructed of 16 gauge hot rolled steel built into the bottom and rear of the stove provide additional protection for the floor and walls.

A double shield on the bottom with a combined air space

of 1½" vents up and out the back of the stove. An air flow of cool air from the front is drawn under the stove and expelled out the back just under the flue/pipe connection. Heat normally radiated onto the floor is by natural convection directed back into the room.





### III. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

#### PAINT ODOR DURING START-UP

When first using your Fisher Stove, the high temperature paint that is used will smoke and give off a temporary odor for several hours. Although this is a temporary condition, windows and/or doors should be open enough to give adequate ventilation.

**IMPORTANT:** All fuel burning appliances require air for combustion. Therefore, it is important that

*some fresh air be supplied to the space where the heater is located. This may be done by opening a window slightly. If a fireplace is also in your house and is operating, make sure a downdraft is not being created in your Fisher Stove.*

#### TO LIGHT A FIRE

1. Using paper and small pieces of dry wood, start the fire on the bottom of the firebox. The fire should be started near the front of the firebox.
2. Open the draft caps fully and close the door.
3. Once the fire has started, slowly add larger pieces of wood until a bed of coals has been established. Some smoking may occur just after the fire is ignited but this will stop once the chimney has warmed. The fire and bed of coals should be maintained at least four inches back from the front opening.
4. Once the fire is well established, the burning rate may be controlled by either closing or opening the draft caps. Opening the draft caps will cause the fire to burn more intensely and consume more fuel. Closing the draft caps will cause the fire to burn more slowly and consume less fuel. (Refer to section on Creosote for extended burning at low settings.)

The Baby Bear, Mama Bear and Papa Bear Series of radiant heaters are intended to be operated only with the door in the closed position. Do not operate these radiant heaters in any other manner except to reduce the potential for creosote accumulation; the stoves can be operated with the door open twice a day for approximately 20-30 minutes. This hot condition (400-450° F. or when pan of water come to a rapid boil) will in most cases reduce the

potential for a build-up of creosote. When the door is open the unit must not be left unattended because the potential of overheating is greatly increased. Excessive or prolonged exposure to the high temperatures which will be produced when the door is open may gradually reduce the natural resistance to ignition of the combustible materials surrounding the heater and chimney.

See Trouble Shooting Section for additional details.

Wet or green fuel loads are not recommended.

**CAUTION: IF THE BODY OF THE HEATER OR THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR STARTS TO GLOW, YOU ARE OVERFIRING. YOU SHOULD STOP ADDING FUEL IMMEDIATELY AND CLOSE THE DRAFT CONTROLS COMPLETELY UNTIL THE GLOWING IS ELIMINATED.**

#### TO CHECK EXISTING FIRE

If you have been burning your stove with the draft closed and you need to check the fire, first open the door a crack, hesitate, then open the rest of the way. This keeps the open door from overpowering the chimney draw.

#### ASHES

The Fisher Stove gives best performance when you consistently maintain a good bed of coals. When you clean out the ashes remember a wood fire burns better with approximately one inch of ashes.

**Disposal of Ashes:** Ashes should be placed in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. The closed container of

ashes should be placed on a non-combustible floor or on the ground, well away from all combustible materials, pending final disposal. If the ashes are disposed of by burial in soil or otherwise locally dispersed, they should be retained in the closed container until all cinders have thoroughly cooled.

#### COAL

When using coal for fuel in your Fisher Stove, it is important that a grate or coal basket be used. The grate or coal basket should have legs which will place the firebed at least two inches above the firebox bottom. This will allow air to move upward through the fuel bed while burning.

The construction of the grate will determine to some

extent the depth of the fuel bed. The coal should not be piled so high that it falls off the grate onto the firebox bottom. Coal will not burn properly directly on the firebox bottom and could cause carbon monoxide gas.

**CAUTION: DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OVERFILL THE HEATER.**

## COAL (continued)

The ashes that accumulate under the grate and on the firebox bottom should be removed before they pile so high that they touch the bottom of the grate. The ashes, if allowed to accumulate, will interfere with the burning process.

Carbon monoxide may be formed, but will vent out of the chimney with proper maintenance and cleanout of ashes. If it is suspected that carbon monoxide is entering the area around the heater, you should follow these steps:

1. Immediately open the doors and windows of your home.
2. Shut down the heater [tighten dampers].
3. Investigate further to determine if the heater or the chimney connector is leaking combustion products.
4. Check the chimney and chimney connector thoroughly as it may have become partially blocked.
5. If the source of the problem cannot be determined, call in a reputable installer or qualified person.
6. Correct before again burning.

**CARBON MONOXIDE:** This is a colorless, odorless gas which is very deadly. While carbon monoxide cannot be smelled, there are other gases also being produced, known as aldehydes. These have a distinctive odor described as "sour." Thus, a sour odor indicates that carbon monoxide is being produced and is somehow entering the space around the heater. The first physical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning will be a severe headache, dizziness, and possibly an upset stomach. Remember, if sour odors are noticed, take immediate action by following the above recommended procedure.

It is very important that coal fires be started by using paper and kindling.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD KEROSENE, GASOLINE, OR SIMILAR PRODUCTS BE USED FOR STARTING FIRES.**

It is recommended that hard coals such as anthracite be burned instead of soft coals.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING

### CREOSOTE — Formation and Need for Removal

When wood is burned slowly, it produces tar and other organic vapors which combine with expelled moisture to form creosote. The creosote vapors condense in the relatively cool chimney flue of a slow-burning fire. As a result, creosote residue accumulates on the flue lining. When ignited, this creosote makes an extremely hot fire.

The chimney connector and chimney should be inspected at least twice monthly during the heating season to determine if a creosote buildup has occurred.

While we can't cure the creosote problem, there are things we can do to minimize the buildup.

Let's look at the causes and solutions. Creosote is basically the residue of wood smoke and moisture when it is condensed. Therefore, we will consider the following factors: (1) smoke density; (2) moisture; (3) temperature of surface (chimney) where it can condense; (4) faulty masonry; (5) dripping; (6) spark arresters; and (7) chimney fire.

Consult experienced chimney servicing personnel for the routine maintenance of your chimney system.

### 1. SMOKE DENSITY — HEAT CONTROL

**Problem 1.** Highest smoke densities occur during low smoldering burns, particularly when small pieces of wood are added to a hot bed of coals while the draft caps are closed too tightly.

**Solution 1a.** After fuel is added, let the fire start burning good before closing down the draft caps.

**Solution 1b.** After an overnight burn, open the draft caps and let the fire burn pretty hot for 5-10 minutes with dry kindling. (The desired hot temperature would be either when the upper level surface reaches 400-450° F. or a large pan of water comes to a rapid boil.)

**Solution 1c.** At least 2 to 4 times weekly, open the caps wide open and let the fire burn for approximately 20-30 minutes.

**Solution 1d.** If your particular model heats your area too hot and you have to operate the stove in a "choked" setting most of the time, a smaller model Fisher Stove may be necessary.

### SMOKE DENSITY — WOOD

**Problem 2.** Some types of wood have more pitch in them than others and cause creosote.

**Solution 2.** Avoid or minimize the use of this type of wood. Hardwoods have the least amount of creosote causing materials.

### 2. MOISTURE

**Problem 3.** Water vapor in smoke condenses on cooler surfaces.

**Solution 3a.** Minimize the water vapor by using dry, seasoned wood.

**Solution 3b.** Avoid green wood during periods of slow burning conditions.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING (continued)

---

### 3. TEMPERATURE OF CHIMNEY

**Problem 4.** Creosote will condense on a cool surface.

**Solution 4a.** We do not recommend using thermal-alphon type chimneys as they operate in a very cool mode and may cause creosote to condense.

**Solution 4b.** Chimneys which rise in the house's interior will not cool as rapidly as chimneys installed on the outside of the house.

**Solution 4c.** Avoid use of un-insulated or single-wall pipe on the outside of the house.

**Problem 5.** A masonry chimney which is larger than 50 square inches in cross sectional area may not maintain sufficient warmth.

**Solution 5a.** See your masonry chimney contractor for a reduced liner size (do not use a liner of less than 28 square inches inside diameter than the stove vent).

### 4. FAULTY MASONRY

**Problem 6.** Faulty or porous masonry will cause creosote.

**Solution 6.** Install a liner or seal the masonry chimney.

### 5. CREOSOTE DRIPPING

**Problem 7.** When the crimped end of the chimney connector is pointed up, creosote may seep out between crimped connections.

**Solution 7.** Reverse the direction of the pipe so the crimped end points down. This may require a special adaptor, converting inside diameter to outside diameter at the stove or at the connection between the chimney connector and the chimney. [Reference, "Chimney Connector Pipe Direction."]

### 6. SPARK ARRESTERS

**Problem 8.** Spark arresters in the chimney cap may get clogged with creosote.

**Solution 8.** Check frequently and clean if necessary.

### 7. CHIMNEY FIRES

**Problem 9.** Excessive buildup of creosote may ignite during a very hot fire and cause a chimney fire.

**Solution 9a.** Step 1-Close the draft caps immediately. Step 2-Throw one or two cups of water into the stove and close the door. Stand far enough back to not get scalded when throwing water into the stove. The resulting steam should limit intensity of the flue fire. Step 3-Call the Fire Department. Step 4-Clean the chimney before further operation.

**Solution 9b.** Avoid the creosote buildup before a fire is caused by cleaning the chimney at least periodically. (Check your chimney after no greater than two cords of wood are burned.)

## SMOKING

---

The Fisher Stoves are designed and tested not to smoke with a normal chimney installation. If the stove smokes after the chimney is warm, it is due to insufficient draft of the chimney system and should be checked for the following:

- Obstructions or restrictions in the system, such as:
  - bird nests, etc.
  - clogged spark arrester.
  - too many turns in the flue.

- Reduction in effective size of system
  - excessive creosote buildup.

- Leakage
  - masonry chimney which is porous.
  - poor or faulty liner.
  - poor fit at connections of chimney connector and chimney.

- Down drafts or abnormal winds
  - chimney installed on leeward side of obstruction
  - ineffective or no chimney cap.

- Insufficient height of chimney
  - more chimney height may be necessary for high elevations.

- Chimney operating too cool
  - single wall pipe on outside of house.
  - poor insulation of chimney.

- Negative pressure in vicinity of stove
  - no partially open window or combustion air same floor as stove.
  - exhaust or vent fans operating at level or above stove location.
  - open fireplace on level of house higher than stove.

- Chimney diameter or area size
  - the chimney system for the BEAR Series should be between 28 and 50 square inches.

## IV. MAINTENANCE

- THE CHIMNEY AND CHIMNEY CONNECTOR MUST BE CLEANED PERIODICALLY DEPENDING UPON THE SOOT OR CREOSOTE BUILDUP. THE FREQUENCY OF CLEANING WILL DEPEND UPON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, BUT MAINLY UPON THE TYPE OF FUEL BEING BURNED.
  
- THE BUILDUP OF SOOT OR CREOSOTE CAN USUALLY BUT NOT ALWAYS BE DETERMINED BY TAPPING THE OUTSIDE OF THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR WITH A METALLIC OBJECT. IF THERE IS A SHARP SOUND, THE INTERIOR IS PROBABLY CLEAN. IF THERE IS A DULL THUDDING SOUND, THE CHIMNEY AND CHIMNEY CONNECTOR INTERIORS SHOULD BE CHECKED FURTHER. IF THE CHIMNEY CAP IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE, THIS MAY BE DONE BY REMOVING THE CAP AND LOOKING DOWN FROM THE TOP USING A BRIGHT FLASHLIGHT. IF THE CHIMNEY CAP IS NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE, THEN THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR MUST BE REMOVED SO THAT INTERIOR SURFACES MAY BE EXAMINED.
  
- IMPORTANT: IF IT IS NECESSARY TO REMOVE THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR OR ANY PORTION, FIRST PROTECT ALL CARPETING, FURNITURE, ETC. IN THE VICINITY. SOME SOOT AND DIRT WILL BE KNOCKED LOOSE WHEN THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR SECTIONS ARE BROKEN LOOSE. IF THE CHIMNEY IS TALL, A LENGTH OF LARGE CHAIN 2-3 FEET LONG OR A SET OF TIRE CHAINS TIED TO A ROPE MAY BE MOVED UP OR DOWN WITHIN THE CHIMNEY. IN BOTH OF THESE INSTANCES, THE SOOT AND DIRT WILL FALL DOWNWARD TOWARDS THE HEATER AND WILL HAVE TO BE CLEANED OUT THROUGH THE DOOR OPENING. BE SURE DOOR(S) AND DRAFT CAPS OF THE HEATER ARE CLOSED DURING THIS CLEANING OPERATION.*
  
- IF THE CHIMNEY CAP IS INACCESSIBLE, THEN THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR WILL HAVE TO BE REMOVED AND THE CLEANING DONE FROM THE BOTTOM BY USING A LONG STICK WITH RAGS ATTACHED TO ONE END. AGAIN BE SURE CARPETING, FURNITURE, ETC. ARE PROTECTED. CLOSE DOOR(S) AND DRAFT CAPS OF HEATER WHILE CLEANING.
  
- WHEN CLEANING FROM THE BOTTOM, BE SURE TO PROTECT YOUR FACE WITH A SHIELD OR BY WEARING GOGGLES.

## V. SAFETY GUIDELINES

- DO NOT BURN LARGE QUANTITIES OF LOOSE PAPER IN THE HEATER AS THE FLASH MAY BLOCK THE SPARK ARRESTER.
- NEVER USE GASOLINE, GASOLINE-TYPE LANTERN FUEL, KEROSENE, CHARCOAL LIGHTER FLUID, OR SIMILAR LIQUIDS TO START OR "FRESHEN UP" A FIRE IN THIS HEATER. KEEP ALL SUCH LIQUIDS WELL AWAY FROM THE HEATER WHILE IT IS IN USE.
- DO NOT PERMIT SOOT OR CREOSOTE TO ACCUMULATE EXCESSIVELY ON THE INTERIOR SURFACES OF THE CHIMNEY AND THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR.
- DO NOT OVERFIRE THE HEATER IF THE HEATER OR CHIMNEY CONNECTOR STARTS TO GLOW, IT IS BEING OVERFIRED.
- DO NOT TOUCH HEATER DURING FIRING — SERIOUS BURNS MAY RESULT. THIS IS A HEAT PRODUCING APPLIANCE. WARN CHILDREN OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF BEING BURNED IF THEY TOUCH THE HEATER.
- COMBUSTION AIR REQUIREMENT: CONVENTIONAL HOUSING STOVE INSTALLATIONS. ALL FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES REQUIRE AIR FOR COMBUSTION. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SOME FRESH AIR BE SUPPLIED TO THE SPACE WHERE THE HEATER IS LOCATED. THIS MAY BE DONE BY OPENING A WINDOW SLIGHTLY OR VENTING A MINIMUM OF 12 SQUARE INCHES OF OUTSIDE AIR TO WITHIN 24 INCHES OF THE STOVE OPENING. IF A FIREPLACE IS ALSO IN YOUR HOUSE AND IS OPERATING, MAKE SURE A DOWNDRAFT IS NOT BEING CREATED IN YOUR FISHER STOVE.
- ALL FURNITURE, KINDLING, NEWSPAPERS, OR ANY OTHER COMBUSTIBLE SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME CLEARANCE TO COMBUSTIBLE GUIDELINES AS SHOWN FOR THE WALL PROTECTION ON THE SIDEWALL/ BACKWALL OR CORNER INSTALLATION DIAGRAMS.
- WHEN DISPOSING OF ASHES REMEMBER TO PLACE THEM IN A METAL CONTAINER WITH A TIGHT FITTING LID UNTIL ALL CINDERS HAVE THOROUGHLY COOLED.
- REMOVE ALL PACKING MATERIALS FROM BETWEEN THE HEAT SHIELDS LOCATED UNDERNEATH STOVE.

## VI. WOOD

Wood is America's renewable resource. Thank you for selecting this form of energy. Let's look at a few facts that may help in your choice.

The Fisher Stove's very high efficiency is based on an air starvation, secondary combustion system which results in very little ash and generates long, consistent heat.

However, with any virtually air tight system which has a smoldering type fire there can be a buildup of creosote in the chimney system. The type and moisture content of wood plays a major part in creosote formation. Our objective in this discussion will be to suggest facts that will reduce creosote and increase the efficiency and comfort of your system.

### MOISTURE CONTENT FACTS:

1. When wood is dry, all woods, regardless of kind, have approximately the same energy content: 8600 BTU/lb. This is to say that one pound of dry oak has the same energy as one pound of pine. Oak and pine have different densities (lbs. per cubic foot) which we will discuss later.
2. Wet wood, whether seasoned or green, has less heat value because energy is wasted in drying the wet wood in order for it to burn.

3. Wet wood will cause more creosote because creosote is formed by the water vapor in the smoke which condenses in the chimney.
4. Wet wood is difficult to ignite and to keep burning.
5. Green wood generally has a high moisture content.

#### SUMMARY:

Wet or green wood should be avoided to minimize the formation of creosote as well as being less efficient. (8600 BTU/lb. for dry wood; 6000 BTU/lb. for wet wood.)

### GREEN WOOD FACTS

1. Because green wood has a high moisture content, it is usually heavier, more troublesome to ignite and contains less energy.
2. The heartwood of trees is generally drier than the sapwood.

3. Green wood does burn more slowly because of the moisture content and causes the fire to last long. However, dry dense woods also burn longer and cause less creosote. We would recommend using dry, dense seasoned woods rather than green wood.

### SEASONED WOOD FACTS:

Green wood can be seasoned or dried adequately within six months to two years if the proper techniques are used.

Techniques and facts:

1. Keep the woodpile at least one foot off the ground.
2. Place the wood so that air can circulate freely throughout the woodpile. This can be achieved by crisscrossing the stacking of the wood.
3. Direct exposure to sunlight will speed the drying process.
4. The smaller the pieces, the faster the drying process. Therefore split the logs into the smallest size preferred.
5. Cover the top part of the pile with plastic, but avoid

completely covering to the ground. Otherwise, air circulation is impeded and ground moisture will become "trapped".

6. Store wood in a heated space such as a garage or basement if available and convenient.

#### SUMMARY:

Dry seasoned wood is preferable for good efficiency and easy burning. Green wood purchased in the "off season" (six months before heating season) may also be less expensive.

### DENSITY:

Density is defined as weight per volume or, for example, pounds per cubic foot. All dry wood has the same BTU's per pound (8600); therefore, one pound of oak has the same energy potential as one pound of pine. However, since oak is a denser wood, it takes less space or volume than pine. Wood is usually sold by the cord (4' x 4' x 8' equals 128 cubic feet) which is a fixed volume. One cord of oak (dense wood) has more potential energy value than one cord of pine. Dense wood usually burns longer and creates less creosote. A cord of a denser wood may be a better bargain in the final analysis.

| SPRUCE  | RELATIVE DENSITY | .4  |
|---------|------------------|-----|
| REDWOOD |                  | .4  |
| CEDAR   |                  | .4  |
| PINE    |                  | .5  |
| WALNUT  |                  | .55 |
| MAPLE   |                  | .55 |
| ASH     |                  | .58 |
| BIRCH   |                  | .62 |
| OAK     |                  | .65 |
| HICKORY |                  | .7  |

## HARDWOOD VS. SOFT WOOD:

When we think of hardwood, we usually think of dense heavy wood. This is generally but not always true. However, let's review and compare the characteristics, qualities, and difference in the two types.

### SUMMARY:

Softwood is generally low in energy content but may be good for kindling and quick heat.

Softwood with high resin and pitch content should be avoided to minimize creosote.

Hardwoods generally have higher energy content and less creosote buildup and should be used for long, sustained heating.

Please review the next chart for specific comparisons.

### CONCLUSION:

Kindling: Use dry softwood split in small pieces.

Fuel: Use best dense wood available that is dry and seasoned.

Avoid green wood and wet wood.

|                               | SOFTWOOD  | HARDWOOD                     |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| DENSITY:<br>(ENERGY CONTENT)  | LOW   | HIGH                         |
| LEAVES:                       | NEEDLES<br>EVERGREEN<br>(Except Tamarack,<br>Larch and Cypress) | BROAD LEAF<br>DECIDUOUS      |
| PITCH OR<br>RESIN<br>CONTENT: | MAY BE HIGH AND<br>CAUSE CREOSOTE                               | LOW                          |
| BURNING<br>QUALITIES:         | FAST AND HOT<br>GOOD<br>FOR KINDLING                            | LONGER LASTING<br>GOOD COALS |
| IGNITION:                     | QUICK   | SLOW                         |

## RELATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMON FIREWOODS

| TYPE       | APPROXIMATE DENSITY | ENERGY COMPARISON WT/CUBIC FT | BTU'S (MIL) PER CORD AVE. ASSUME ACTUAL 80 CUBIC FT./CORD | MOISTURE CONTENT | SMOKE CONTENT | SPLITS    | USE      | COMMENTS                |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| HARDWOODS: |                     |                               |   |                  |               |           |          |                         |
| HICKORY    | .7                  | 43.6                          | 30.0  | MEDIUM           | LITTLE        | VERY WELL | FUEL     | BEST FUEL               |
| OAK        | .65                 | 40.5                          | 27.9  | WET              | LITTLE        | FAIR      | FUEL     |                         |
| BIRCH      | .62                 | 38.6                          | 28.5  | MEDIUM           | SOME          | HARD      |          | AROMATIC                |
| ASH        | .58                 | 36.0                          | 24.8  | DRY              | LITTLE        | WELL      |          | GOOD FUEL               |
| MAPLE      | .55                 | 34.3                          | 23.6  | MEDIUM           | SOME          | FAIR      | FUEL     |                         |
| WALNUT     | .55                 | 34.3                          | 23.6  | WET              | LITTLE        | FAIR      |          |                         |
| CHERRY     | .5                  | 31.2                          | 21.5  | DRY              | LITTLE        | FAIR      |          |                         |
| ELM        | .5                  | 31.2                          | 21.5  | WET              | LOTS          | DOESN'T   |          | POOR FUEL               |
| ALDER      | .41                 | 25.5                          | 17.5  | WET              | LOTS          | FAIR      |          | POOR ENERGY CONTENT     |
| SOFTWOODS: |                     |                               |   |                  |               |           |          |                         |
| PINE       | .5                  | 31.2                          | 21.5  | DRY              | LOTS          | VERY WELL | KINDLING | PITCHY WOOD<br>CREOSOTE |
| FIR        | .5                  | 31.2                          | 21.5  | DRY              | SOME          | EASY      | KINDLING |                         |
| CEDAR      | .4                  | 24.9                          | 17.1  | DRY              | SOME          | VERY WELL |          | NOISE & SPARKS          |
| REDWOOD    | .4                  | 24.9                          | 17.1  | DRY              | MEDIUM        | FAIR      |          |                         |

These Figures are approximate and will vary somewhat for different species.

## **THANK YOU . . .**

. . . for reading this OWNER'S MANUAL. It has been written in such a way as to be easy to read and understand. It was our desire to provide as much data as needed to allow you to install and operate your FISHER STOVE in the safest manner possible.

There are a number of excellent resources on wood heating which you might like to purchase for your home library. The "Woodburning Encyclopedia" by Jay W. Shelton is an excellent reference.

For further information on using your heater safely, obtain a copy of the National Fire Protection Association publication "Using Coal and Wood Stoves Safely" NFPA No. HS-8-1974. The address of the NFPA is 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.

If you have any questions regarding your FISHER STOVE which were not covered in this Manual, please feel free to contact your dealer. We welcome your comments and invite you to share with us any unusual applications of your stove and/or pictures showing actual installation.

## **GOOD HEATING**



*An Idea America is warming up to.*