Q. What’s in Wood Smoke?
A. Smoke from woodstoves results from a fire that doesn’t adequately burn - a process known as incomplete combustion. Wood smoke contains many pollutants, including:
- Fine particle pollution, or PM \(_{2.5}\)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Benzo (a) pyrene
- Formaldehyde
- Dioxins
- Furans

Q. Who’s Affected by Wood Smoke?
A. Wood smoke can affect everyone, but children under 18, older adults, people with diabetes, heart disease, asthma or other lung diseases are the most vulnerable. These problems range from burning eyes and runny noses to bronchitis, asthma attacks and even heart attacks.

Benefits of Replacing Old with New

PROTECTS HEALTH:
- Reduces particle pollution by about 70 percent
- Improves the air in your community and inside your home
- Helps protect health of children and adults with heart and respiratory disease (e.g. asthma)
- Reduces exposure to toxic pollutants that have been linked to cancer and other serious health problems

SAVES MONEY:
- New woodstoves are about 50 percent more efficient
- They use about 1/3 less firewood for the same amount of heat

IMPROVES FIRE SAFETY:
- Improperly installed woodstoves and chimneys can destroy homes
- In a single year, 4,000 fires caused by woodstoves and heaters resulted in 50 deaths and $45 million in property damage (National Fire Protection Agency)
- Chimney fires can be caused by creosote buildup in chimney pipes, improper woodstove maintenance, and faulty installation

Make Your Fire Cleaner
Building small hot fires and keeping ashes cleaned from the stove can make your stove more efficient. That means you’ll use less firewood - and you’ll reduce smoke right in your neighborhood. Making sure your firewood is seasoned - and never burning trash or treated wood - also help keep your community’s air cleaner. For more tips on burning cleaner, go to www.epa.gov/woodstoves.
Old Woodstove Waste

New Technology Stoves Save

EPA and Partners Working Together

Through campaigns like the Great Michigan Woodstove Changeout, EPA is working with the hearth industry, state, local and tribal air agencies, and other organizations to encourage people to replace old woodstoves with more efficient and cleaner-burning technology.

Partners

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
U.S. Department of Energy

www.mucc.org
www.epa.gov/woodstoves

What to Do with Your Old Stove

To help keep your air cleaner, make sure your old woodstove isn’t used again. Ask a hearth specialty retailer or a local steel recycler for information on recycling old woodstoves. For details, go to www.epa.gov/woodstoves.

If you heat your home with a woodstove manufactured before 1990, you could be wasting your money, risking your property and creating indoor and outdoor air pollution that affects your health. Why? The reason is that your woodstove is outdated and inefficient.

You can reduce these risks by replacing your old woodstove with new and cleaner technology—whether it’s a gas, pellet, corn, or electric woodstove. Masonry heaters are another option. Changing out your old woodstove can help you breathe cleaner air while reducing your home heating bills and minimizing your risk of property damage.

Learn more about replacing old woodstoves through the Great Michigan Woodstove Changeout. Visit www.mucc.org or www.woodstovechangeout.org


Replace Your Old Woodstove and Save!