Reducing air pollution from unflued gas heaters

Purchasing an unflued gas heater

Make sure the heater:
- is a suitable size for the room
- has an electric ignition system
- has a safety system to shut down the appliance when fresh air flow is restricted.

Have the appliance installed by a qualified tradesperson.

Consider buying an externally flued gas heater instead.
Consider the potential impacts on air quality in your home.

If you already have an unflued gas heater

While the heater is in operation:
- keep the room well ventilated, i.e., leave a window partially open
- minimise the time the heater is in operation
- follow the manufacturer’s instructions for correct operation.

Never leave an unflued gas heater in operation while you sleep.

Be aware of cumulative emissions from other gas appliances, such as stoves.

Have your heater professionally serviced annually.

For more information on wood heaters and air pollution, visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s website:

www.dwer.wa.gov.au/burnwise

or email

burnwise@dwer.wa.gov.au

Phone: 6364 7000

More information on domestic wood smoke is also available from your local government’s environmental health section.

Your local contact is:
NO can contribute to increased occurrence of asthma attacks and place children at risk of developing respiratory infections. It also contributes to changes in lung function, increased respiratory symptoms and increased respiratory disease.

Elevated levels of CO can lead to dizziness, difficulty breathing, chest pain, tiredness and headaches. High CO concentrations deprive the body of oxygen and in extreme situations can lead to death.

Formaldehyde is an irritant of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract. It is also a carcinogenic air toxic.

Unflued gas heaters do not have a chimney or a flue to vent combustion products outside. Combustion products are emitted inside and impact indoor air quality.

In homes where an unflued gas heater is being used, levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) carbon monoxide (CO) and formaldehyde in indoor air are significantly increased. In some cases, levels of NO₂ have been found to exceed international health guidelines for indoor air. The emission of water vapour can also contribute to the increased formation of mould and dust mites.

Pollution from unflued gas heaters can contribute to numerous health problems (e.g. asthma, lung disease, cancer) particularly in vulnerable people with respiratory and cardiovascular illness, pregnant women, children and the elderly.

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