



5 easy steps
- to lighting the fire in your fireplace

exodraft



Insufficient chimney draught may cause problems like

- Difficulties lighting the fire
- Smoke in the room
- Sooty stove doors
- The fire goes out
- Soot and odours coming from the fireplace/stove



We've laid out 5 simple steps to follow for **lighting and maintaining your fire**

If, after following these steps, you still experience problems with lighting the fire, have sooty doors or smoke spillage into the room, your problem is most likely caused by insufficient draught.



Step 1

Prepare the fireplace/stove



- Clean the fireplace/stove and empty the ash pan.
- Check that the damper, if fitted, is open and if you have a stove, check that all the air vents are open.



Step 2

Use proper fuel

Use only seasoned wood – max 20% moisture content and dried for at least one year. We recommend hardwood such as beech, ash, oak, hornbeam or cherry.

- Use fire starters or paper and soft kindling wood to start the fire.
- Never burn household waste, cardboard packaging, printed matter or wood that has been painted or treated in any other way.
- Do not use unseasoned wood or soft wood logs as this will cause large amounts of soot and tar which can result in chimney fires.



Step 3

Prepare the fire

- Place 2-3 split logs of firewood in your stove.
- Stack kindling wood on top of these.
- The kindling wood should be placed in a crisscross pattern - leaving space for air circulation.
- Place a couple of fire starters or crumpled paper on top. Be aware that newspaper can cause soot and blacken the glass in your stove.

Step 4

Light the fire

- Light the fire starters or the paper. The surrounding kindling wood will soon catch fire.
- The logs at the bottom should be burning steadily before you add more logs.
- If the air vents do not provide enough combustion air, leave the stove door open until the fire is established.

If you have a chimney fan installed on your chimney, the fire should be established after a few minutes.



Step 5 Tending the fire

- When the fire is established, adjust the air vents according to manufacturer's recommendations in order to control the temperature.
- Do not add more wood until the fire is going steadily. Never overfill the stove and avoid using oversized logs.
- Using seasoned wood and correct air vent settings, the new load should ignite quickly.
- Do not close the air vents and dampers until the fire has completely gone out.



When the fire **won't** catch

If the fire won't catch, it may be due to insufficient draught in your chimney. The reasons for this vary, but the most common are:

- Installation of a new, highly efficient wood-burning stove on an existing chimney.
- The Chimney is too short or otherwise disproportioned.
- Weather conditions cause downdraught in the chimney.

By installing an **exodraft** chimney fan, you will get sufficient draught and an optimized combustion in your wood-burning stove or fireplace at all times.



Don't forget the smoke alarm

Always install a smoke alarm in the same room as the appliance and never leave the fireplace/stove unattended.

Never store firewood near hot surfaces, such as against the side of the stove.

Regular sweeping of the flue and chimney must be carried out to prevent possible chimney fires.



Good combustion

Optimum energy means

Look out for these indicators of good combustion

- When wood burns it should be flaming until only charcoal remains.
- If there are fire-resistant stones in the fire box, they should not be blackened.
- Steel or cast iron parts in the fire box should never be sooty.
- If the fireplace/stove has a glass door, the glass should be clear or possibly hazy, but never black.
- Smoke from the chimney should be light, white or invisible.

The simple solution to insufficient chimney draught

By installing an **exodraft** chimney fan, you achieve optimum draught in your chimney regardless of weather conditions as well as:

- Better combustion and fuel economy
- A healthier indoor climate
- Fast and easy lighting your fireplace
- No smoke or odours
- Additional ventilation (even in the summertime)

Contact your local fireplace shop or visit
www.exodraft.co.uk



The chimney fan is a special exhaust fan that is mounted on the chimney. During operation, a vacuum effect is achieved, removing smoke and supplying sufficient combustion air. **exodraft** chimney fans are suitable for all chimney types.

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