

# Control Your Heating Costs

By Timothy Taylor and Kevin Beary

The ever-increasing cost of oil has many Americans fearful of the price they will pay to heat their homes this coming winter. Though the market is subject to fluctuation, industry experts predict that consumers will spend between \$3,000 and \$4,000 if they opt to continue heating with oil. However, as global warming continues, there are alternatives that not only will save consumers money but also promote the philosophy of saving green by going green. At Safeside Chimney, we offer the alternative of wood stoves and pellet stoves.

Pellet and wood stoves can be used as a means of zone heating, or heating the primary areas a family uses while in its home. This allows them to turn down the thermostat and save on fuel. We have spoken with families that saved over 30% on their fuel bills with this method.

Our wood and pellet stoves have been tested and approved by the Environmental

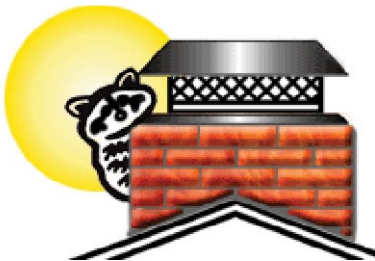
Protection Agency. Pellet fuel is carbon neutral and absorbed by the atmosphere. Pellets also produce very little ash so the risk of a fire or hazard is almost nonexistent. EPA tested woodstoves also produce less soot and emissions when used with properly seasoned hardwood.

The pellets themselves are mainly compressed from woodchips and sawdust. They are easily obtained at chain stores or pellet suppliers and generally cost \$250 per ton. Cord wood is available at many tree companies, landscaping companies etc. and costs about \$250 a cord. A typical family consumes 1 - 3 tons of pellets or 1 - 3 cords of hardwood during the months in which heating a home is necessary. By comparison, a typical family uses 650 to 800 gallons of oil in that time. The math is easy. You will save money. Even better, the cost of pellets and hardwood over the last decade has been subject to very minor fluctuation, and has decreased in the last two years. The

cost of oil has increased by 150 percent in that timeframe and its future price is under much speculation. Heating with wood or pellet means you control your heating costs , not multi-national corporations or global 3<sup>rd</sup> world instability.

Of course, there is the cost of the purchase and installation of a wood or pellet stove. Typically homeowners should budget \$2400 - \$4000 for the stove and installation.. Many homeowners find that this tends to pay for itself within 3 to 5 years.

Safeside Chimney is committed to empowering consumers to, take control of their heating costs , save on fuel, and also protecting the environment. Safeside Chimney sells, installs, and services wood and pellet stoves. Safeside can help you decide on pellet vs. wood , and what options there are to install the stove in your home .Call us today at 1-800-CHIMNEY to get started on saving and doing your part in helping protect the world in which you live.



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