

Cork Low Smoke Fuel Zone

Fuel which may not be burned in the low smoke zone



Bituminous (Smoky) coal

Often labelled “Polish”, “Columbian”, “Texan”, “Russian” or “House” coal. This is sometimes labelled “Premium” coal, but many low smoke brands also carry the “Premium” tag. If it doesn’t say “Low smoke” on the bag, don’t burn it in the low smoke zone.

“Singles”, “Doubles” and “slack” are usually bituminous, and may not be burned, except for low smoke singles.

Bituminous coal when burned emits many toxic substances, which have been linked to heart attack, stroke, cancer, asthma and many other heart and lung ailments.



Chipboard (particle board)



Plywood



Oriented Strand Board (OSB)



Medium Density Fibre Board (MDF)

Timber effect sheeting or treated timber

Scrap Chipboard (particle board), plywood, Oriented Strand Board (OSB), Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), or any other material that has been made using glues, resins, etc.

In addition to being harmful to the environment, these can release harmful substances into your home when burned.

You should not burn broken furniture, or any other timber which has been treated with preservative, paint, varnish, lacquer or polish.

These may not be burned in any domestic fire, in or outside the low smoke zone.



Household waste

Plastics, Tetra-paks, Styrofoam cartons and wrappers, polythene, etc. Burning of household waste has a detrimental effect on the environment inside and outside the home. It releases carcinogenic substances called dioxins.

These may not be burned in any domestic fire, inside or outside the low smoke zone.

Types of fuel which may be burned in the low smoke zone



Anthracite

A naturally low smoke, hard, shiny coal.

Difficult to light, but burns very hot.

Not normally sold for the domestic market, except for use in some specialist appliances where the air flow can be very accurately controlled.



Lignite Briquettes (Union Nuggets)

Lignite is a naturally low smoke, soft coal, often called “brown coal” in its natural state.

In its natural state, it has a high moisture content, so it is usually sold to the domestic market compressed into “Union Nuggets”.

Easy to light and has a good flame, but the heat output is lower than many other low smoke fuels.



Pet Coke

Pet Coke/Petroleum Coke is a by-product of the petroleum industry. It looks similar to bituminous coal, but has a sponge-like appearance.

Pet Coke burns extremely hot. It has a high sulphur content, and cannot be sold on its own, but as an admixture with other types of low smoke fuel. Burning pet coke on its own will damage flues and grates, due to its extreme heat and acid content.



Ovoids

Ovoids are composite products pressed in a mould. They can contain small amounts of bituminous coal, anthracite, lignite, petcoke and biomass. Ovoids are often mixed with other fuels to make low smoke mixes, and many proprietary low smoke mixes contain ovoids.



Peat Briquettes

Peat briquettes are made from compressed peat (turf). They are easy to light, but burn quickly. They give good flame, but limited heat output.



Wood briquettes

There are several types of wood briquettes, often described as “fire logs”. They light easily, and having low moisture content they give reasonable heat output, but burn quickly. They are often used to give a fire a good start before adding other fuel, or are combined with other fuels to give a good flame.



Turf (Peat)

Naturally occurring in peat bogs. Formed by compression of vegetable matter over thousands of years. Lights reasonably easily when dry, with good flame. Heat output is limited, and it produces a lot of ash.



Untreated Wooden logs (blocks)

Wooden logs should be seasoned and dried for at least a year after cutting from the tree. If you burn damp logs, much of the heat produced is used to dry the log, making the burning very inefficient. Also, the burning of wet logs releases creosote, which can congeal in your chimney, and can cause a chimney fire hot enough to damage your flue or chimney breast.



Wood Pellets

Wood pellets are burned in a stove specially designed for the purpose, which is often part of the house’s central heating system.