

Summer shutdown of your Stove

How many people at the end of the heating season forget all about their stove? It has done its job for the winter and is left there until the next autumn when needed again. The stove is full of ash and the controls left in the position the stove was last run in. In the autumn you come to use the stove again and are horrified to find it full of rust, the firebricks cracked with mould growing out of them and that is if you can get the front door to open at all as the handle has rusted in the shut position.

How is this damage occurring?

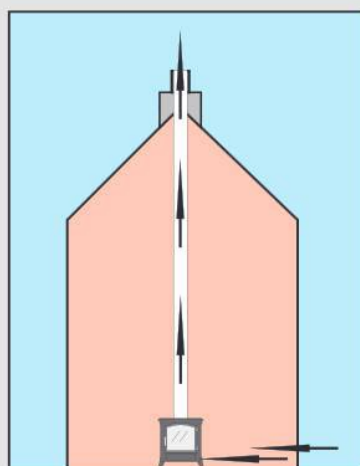
In the summer the outside temperature can rise suddenly and become warmer than the temperature within the house. This causes the air within the flue to reverse its normal flow pattern and air travels down the flue. The most obvious outcome of this will initially be a smell from the flue and whilst this is not harmful it may be unpleasant if the flue has not been swept as often as it should have been.

This air will contain moisture and it is this moisture dropping into the stove which is the main cause of the damage. Metal within the stove will cool this water vapour and it will condense on the exposed surface. In most cases cast iron or steel are the main component of a stove and rust will form.

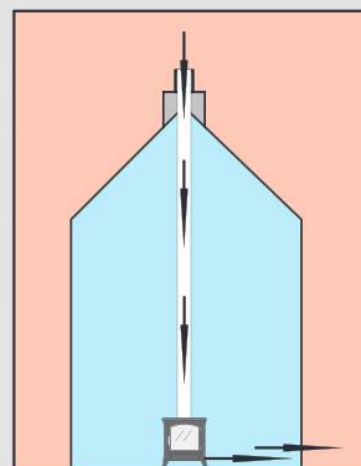
Mix this water with the ash and tars left in a stove and many and

various corrosive substances are produced. The porous firebricks will absorb moisture and can become a breeding ground for bacteria and algae which can enjoy living in the bricks and they in turn produce their own waste which can damage the bricks.

A little care and maintenance will increase the longevity of the stove and save you money.



NORMAL



REVERSE