

# Learn what you can burn in a smoke control area

Do you live in the smoke control area?  
Find out here:



No

There are no legal restrictions on the type of fuel you can burn or type of appliance you can install. Give it careful consideration if you are thinking about installing an appliance – be mindful of your health and the environment.

Yes

Can I install a multi-fuel or wood burning stove?

Yes - Consider installing an **exempt/Defra approved appliance.**

The installation must comply with building regulations.

**Exempt/Defra approved appliance installed.**

Yes

Only burn fuel listed as a permitted fuel for the specific appliance you have installed. You can only burn wood if it is listed for your chosen appliance.

No

Only burn **authorised 'smokeless' fuels** e.g., anthracite, low volatile steam coal. This is also the type of fuel which must be used on an open fire in a smoke control area.



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Common misconceptions



**Myth:** Wood is an authorised smokeless fuel

**Fact:** Wood is not an authorised smokeless fuel and isn't suitable for use in a smoke control area unless in an exempt appliance.



**Myth:** I can burn any fuel as long as I am using an exempt appliance.

**Fact:** Even if you have an exempt appliance, you must only burn fuel listed as a permitted fuel for the specific appliance.



**Myth:** I can put any wood on my appliance including from a recently cut down tree.

**Fact:** Wood must be clean (no surface coatings i.e., varnish or paints) and seasoned/dry (moisture content of 20% or less). Look out for the 'Ready to Burn' logo when purchasing wood fuel, and ensure it is kept dry until it is used.



**Myth:** I don't live in a smoke control area so I can burn what I want on my wood burning stove/appliance.

**Fact:** Consider your health and the environment, only burn suitable fuel. Enforcement action can be taken for smoke affecting neighbours even outside of a smoke control area.

More information on fuels, appliances and maintenance can be found here:

<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/burnbetter/>

Contact [environmental.health@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@darlington.gov.uk) for further advice