

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: What is a solid fuel burner?**

A: Any appliance that uses wood or coal for fuel i.e. wood burners, coal ranges, pellet fires, Marshall heaters, Chip heaters, multi-fuel burners, or an indoor open fire.

## **Q: What makes a solid fuel burner non-compliant?**

A: Central government introduced the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality in 2004. Included in those regulations were design standards for new wood burners, specifically a restriction on the amount of emissions they can emit after 2005. Some New Zealand cities, like Rotorua, have special regional rules. Only wood or pellet burners that are on the Ministry for the Environment's Authorised Wood Burner List that have an emission discharge of  $\leq 0.6 \text{ g/kg}$  can be installed in Rotorua ([www.mfe.govt.nz/air/home-heating-and-authorised-wood-burners/burners](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/air/home-heating-and-authorised-wood-burners/burners)). All indoor open fires are non-compliant.

## **Q: I'm not selling my property but it has a non-compliant solid fuel burner. Can I continue to use it?**

A: Use of indoor open fires has been prohibited since 2015. Other solid fuel burners may be used until you sell the property or when regional solid fuel burner rules come into effect.

## **Q: My wood burner was installed post-2005 and is listed on the Ministry for the Environment's Authorised Burner List. Does the new 0.6g/kg emission rule mean I need to replace it?**

A: No

## **VENDOR (SELLER) QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **Q: I want to sell a property that has a non-compliant solid fuel burner. What are my obligations under the Point of Sale Rule?**

A: Under the Point of Sale Rule it is your responsibility (as the vendor) to remove or replace non-compliant solid fuel burners in the property. In the case of any indoor open fires you must make them inoperable. It is a mandatory requirement, that any non-compliant solid fuel burners that are not being replaced must be removed.

You must complete a Point of Sale Compliance Form, attach before and after photos and submit the form to Bay of Plenty Regional Council. This must all be done before the property title transfers to the new owner. No dispensations will be granted to leave non-compliant solid fuel burners in the property. Refer to the Point of Sale section on the [www.cleanairrotorua.co.nz](http://www.cleanairrotorua.co.nz)

### **Q: I have purchased a wood burner that has an emission discharge of more than 0.6g/kg. Will I be able to install it?**

A: If you submit your solid fuel burner building consent application before 30 October 2017 you will be able to install it, provided it is on the Ministry for the Environment's Authorised Wood Burner List.

### **Q: I am selling a property that doesn't have a solid fuel burner. Do I need to complete a Rotorua Air Quality Control Bylaw Compliance Form?**

A: No.

## **PURCHASER (BUYER) QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **Q: What should I do if the property I am looking at buying has a non-compliant solid fuel burner?**

A: Under the Point of Sale rule the vendor must remove or replace all non-compliant solid fuel burners. As a purchaser you can ask the vendor to replace the non-compliant solid fuel burner(s) before you take ownership. The vendor is not obliged to replace them. The vendor is only obligated to remove them. Alternatively, you can install replacement heating (electric, gas, wood or pellet fire) yourself after purchase. Request a copy of the Point of Sale Compliance Form before the property transfers into your name. This form allows you six months to use the Hot Swap Scheme for zero emission replacement heating. These are ten year, interest-free loans.