

# THE GUIDE TO SOLID FUELS

## Choice of Fuel

There are a great many different solid fuels for sale. Your choice will be based on a number of criteria, the most important of which will be the type of appliance you use and whether or not you live in a smoke control area.

## Fuels for Open Fires

### Housecoal and Wood

The most traditional fuel for open fires is **Housecoal**. It is available in various sizes to suit your requirements. **Housecoal** comes from sites in Britain together with some imports from various parts of the world.

In addition, there are several briquetted fuels manufactured for open fires such as - **Firelite Briketts, Peat Briquettes and Wildfire**, plus logs and briquettes made from waste bio-mass materials which are available in many locations.

Well seasoned **Wood** can be burned on open fires. You should not use any **Wood** which is painted or treated with preservative. The gasses given off during burning are harmful to the environment.

Due to the lower heat content, you may find a mixture of **Housecoal and Wood** will generate more heat and last longer.

Neither **Housecoal nor Wood** are authorised for use in Smoke Control Areas.

### Authorised Open Fire Smokeless Fuels

Solid Smokeless Fuels are clean and easy to use and up to a third more heat is obtained than when burning the same weight of Housecoal. Each fuel has different burning characteristics and your local Approved Coal Merchant will be able to advise you on the best choice for your fire.

Manufactured open fire smokeless fuels are sold by brand name such as -

**Briteflame, Coalite Ovals, Cosycoke, Cosycoke Briquettes, Ecoal, Excel, Homefire, Homefire Ovals, Multiheat, Newflame, Pureheat, Supertherm II.**

## Approved Coal Merchants Scheme

When purchasing solid fuel, the Solid Fuel Association recommends you always buy from a member of the Approved Coal Merchants Scheme. These merchants are trained, committed to serving the customer and abide by the Coal Trade Code. **Contact the Solid Fuel Association for your nearest Approved Coal Merchant or visit [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk) .**

## Fuels for Closed Appliances

This category of appliances includes roomheaters, stoves, cookers and freestanding boilers.

There is a great variety of appliances available. Most offer efficient space heating whilst others can supply hot water and central heating. Many are classified as 'multi-fuel' and can burn solid fuel or wood, as well as a mixture of both.

### **Naturally Smokeless Fuel**

**Anthracite** is a naturally occurring smokeless fuel and is suitable for all closed appliances. It is supplied from South Wales as well as other parts of the world. **Anthracite Grains and Beans** are mainly used on Gravity Feed Boilers.

### **Manufactured Smokeless Fuels**

Manufactured fuels are usually sold by brand name. Your local **Approved Coal Merchant** will be able to offer a selection to suit your appliance and your pocket such as –

**Ancit, Briteheat, Briteflame, Coalite Ovals, Cosycoke, Cosycoke Briquettes, Ecoal, Homefire, Homefire Ovals, Maxibrite, Newflame, Phurnacite, Pureheat, Supacite, Surefire, Sunbrite Doubles, Taybrite, Therma.**

## Smoke Control Legislation

Many people live in areas covered by the Clean Air Act, particularly in towns and cities. In such places it is an offence to emit dark smoke from a chimney and therefore you should use only an **authorised smokeless fuel**.

Wood is not an authorised fuel for use in Smoke Control Areas, however you may burn wood on an **exempted appliance** which has been tested and approved by DEFRA.

Details of approved fuels and exempt appliances can be provided by The Solid Fuel Association or log on to [www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk](http://www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk).

**For more information on anything contained in this leaflet, contact  
The Solid Fuel Association on**

**0845 6014406**

**[www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk) or e-mail to [sfa@solidfuel.co.uk](mailto:sfa@solidfuel.co.uk)**

