

## BARBEQUES

Barbeques can also cause a smoke problem – especially if you use lighter fuel. If the weather is still and sunny a barbeque will contribute to photochemical smog (this is formed in the summer by the action of sunlight on pollutants). It is important to be considerate when igniting a barbeque, and it may be necessary to inform your neighbours, especially if they have clothes on a washing line and the prevailing wind is in this direction.

## WOOD BURNERS

If you wish to burn any type of wood fuel and you live in a smoke control area, you may only do so if you burn wood on an "exempt" appliance. An "exempt" appliance is one that is exempted to burn unauthorised fuels in smoke control areas by regulations published under the Clean Air Act. The number of exempt appliances, including biomass boilers, is now quite exhaustive (nearly 1400—November 2017)

It is likely that many of the stoves for sale in the UK would undoubtedly meet the standard required where they use a system of secondary combustion.

## SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

These are areas of the country which have been declared by the local authority under The Clean Air Act 1993. To check later additions to the list or to see if you are in a smoke control area go to:

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/protection/pollution/smoke.aspx](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/protection/pollution/smoke.aspx)

## EXEMPT APPLIANCES

The full list of exempt appliances is now quite exhaustive and DEFRA host a complete database of these appliances which is periodically updated. The database can be viewed and searched at:

[smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/appliances.php?country=england](http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/appliances.php?country=england)

Please be aware that using an exempt appliance does not exclude the Council taking action against you for emitting smoke. You still have a legal duty to ensure the emissions from the appliance are smoke free and the conditions of the exemption are being followed. You may need to change the type of fuel used should smoke be produced from its combustion.

## AUTHORISED FUELS

In smoke control areas where only exempt appliances are permitted, these appliances can only burn authorised fuels which are generally specified by the manufacturer. A full database of authorised fuels can be viewed and search at:

[smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/fuels.php](http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/fuels.php)

If you have any further queries regarding the use of smokeless fuels please contact Environmental Protection at the address below.

Public Health Protection Unit  
Northumberland County Council  
Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service HQ  
West Hartford Business Park  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 3JP

Phone: 0845 600 6400

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council



**REGULATIONS  
REGARDING  
SMOKELESS  
FUELS & WOOD  
BURNING  
APPLIANCES**



# SMOKELESS FUELS

## WHY DO WE HAVE SMOKELESS FUELS?

The use of coke as a fuel was pioneered during the 17th century, in response to the ever-growing problem of European deforestation. Wood was becoming increasingly scarce and expensive, with the fumes from coal, particularly smoke and sulphur compounds, disqualifying it from applications such as cooking and iron smelting.



It was not however until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the use of smokeless fuels, such as coke, became widely used for household heating. Populous cities such as London and Edinburgh produced huge amounts of smoke, and in combination with climatic conditions, often created the characteristic smog that was so often illustrated by writers and artists of the period.

On the 5 December 1952, a five-day pollution event occurred in London, from the direct emission of household smoke, claiming the lives of over 4,000 people. The 1956 Clean Air Act was subsequently passed, mandating the use of "smokeless" fuels in all inner city areas. This act was a success and resulted in the creation of many other smokeless zones in towns and districts throughout the



of "smokeless" fuels in all inner city areas. This act was a success and resulted in the creation of many other smokeless zones in towns and districts throughout the

The following two tables list the fuels that have been tested and approved by the Heating Equipment Testing and Approval Scheme (HETAS). This organisation is the official body recognised by government to approve solid fuel domestic heating appliances, fuels and services. To ensure satisfactory performance of domestic solid fuel appliances it is important to use fuels that are of a suitable type and size. Guidance on the selection of fuels giving good performance for the different types of appliances is given at the head of each section. The fuels listed below have been tested and approved by HETAS Ltd on behalf of the fuel producer.



## NATURAL SMOKELESS FUELS

Fuels	Producer/ Distributor	Approved for use on:		
		Open Fire	Closed Appliances	Gravity Feed
<i>Black Diamond Beans</i>	Celtic Energy Ltd.	-	-	√
<i>Black Diamond Grains</i>	" " "	-	-	√
<i>Onllwyn Gp 1 Large Nuts</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Onllwyn Gp 1 Small Nuts</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Tower Large Nuts</i>	Tower Colliery Ltd.	-	√	-
<i>Tower Small Nuts</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Tower (UK) Beans</i>	" " "	-	-	√
<i>Tower Grains</i>	" " "	-	-	√

## MANUFACTURED SMOKELESS FUELS

Fuels	Producer/ Distributor	Approved for use on:		
		Open Fire	Closed Appliances	Gravity Feed
<i>Homefire</i>	CPL Industries Ltd	√	√	-
<i>Homefire Ovals</i>	" " "	√	√	-
<i>Phurnacite</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Ancit</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Taybrite</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Supertherm II</i>	" " "	√	-	-
<i>Sunbrite Doubles</i> <i>Note: More than usual firefighters may be needed to ignite this product.</i>	Monckton Coke & Chemical Co Ltd	-	√	-
<i>Cosycoke</i>	" " " "	√	√	-
<i>Towercite</i>	Tower Colliery Ltd	-	√	-
<i>Pureheat</i>	Oxbow Carbon & minerals UK Ltd.	√	√	-
<i>Excel</i>	" " " "	√	-	-
<i>Maxibrite</i>	Maxibrite Ltd.	-	√	-
<i>Briteflame</i>	" " "	√	√	-
<i>Newflame</i>	" " "	√	√	-
<i>Supacite</i>	" " "	-	√	-
<i>Coalite</i>	" " "	√	√	-

Petroleum coke is not recommended by HETAS for use on solid fuel burning appliances because its use can result in serious damage to grates and other appliance components in the fuel bed area. However, a number of products which contain petroleum coke or are blends of petroleum coke with other fuels have been tested and approved.