

“Green starter” wood igniter downsides, and a much better option.

Before introducing a virtually free and better alternative to the ‘Green start igniter’, let’s take a moment to examine how “Green Start” marketing literature deceives, in stating this expensive and external compressor assembly is a breakthrough invention equivalent to electric car starters, when there is a much better, virtually free alternative.

False promotional article:

The first sentence, “Starting your wood stove or insert has never been easier!” is a lie, as it’s much harder.

Starting your wood stove or insert has never been easier! Much like Charles Kettering’s invention of the electric automobile ignition 100 years ago, the GreenStart® igniter system has evolved the ignition of wood in a spectacular way and has become the greatest innovation in wood heating in over 100 years.

Starting a wood fire is now as convenient as pushing a button. This incredible ignition system eliminates the mess of starting a fire with matches and newspaper, while increasing safety at the same time.

The patent-pending, breakthrough technology of the GreenStart® system works much like a blacksmith’s bellows. When you push the button you start an igniter which heats the air to 1,400 degrees F. The compressor (bellows) then forces the super-heated air into the firebox, lighting the wood for a fast, clean, smoke-free startup. The fire starts in a matter of a few minutes with the whole process lasting 15 minutes.

The GreenStart® system is also perfect for refreshing a fire; add new fuel to the hot coals and push the button twice. Pushing the button twice will bypass the igniter and turn on the compressor, adding enough air to ignite the hot coals. There is no need to blow on the coals or leave the door ajar, saving time and increasing safety.

Virtually free alternative:

There is a small, inexpensive push button igniter that instantly lights a virtually free fire starter, that’s placed in front of an air intake bellows hole.

This bellows is standard with most IHP stoves and inserts Fireside carries. This air intake hole is located in the front lower center of the fire box, powered simply by the chimney’s natural draft.

My customers have been using this fast, expensive, and trouble-free procedure for many years. This bellows also works to refresh a fire when reduced to red coals. To quickly ignite new wood, simply use the poker to bring coals forward to the bellow hole, reload and shut the door. The bellows automatically activates. No need to push and hold a button as with ‘green’ start, waiting minutes to ignite. There is also no need to fetch and return a compressor to the closet.

A free bellows is much easier than an expensive green start compressor assembly, that would have to be placed on the floor or hearth away from the appliance. If this hot air compressor is enclosed, the enclosure must be ventilated. If enclosed or in a remote location, there would be a hot air supply line that would need to be routed over to and into the insert.

The Green start compressor would likely need maintenance and expensive replacement. And by the way, there is nothing green about “Green starter” wood igniters. Quite the contrary. It uses fossil fuel to power the electricity it uses.