

Wood Stoves VS Pellet Stoves

In my 35 years in the business, I see two critically important facts consumers were unaware of when they made the decision to heat with pellet stoves. Never is the pellet/wood comparison made using new flash combustion(FC) wood stoves. FC wood stoves are 3 times better than air-tight stoves you are familiar with. Three times better! This made possible as a function of **five** major improvements you are not likely aware of. Each one of these improvements is major. All hinge on quality of construction, to maintain air injection to ignite smoke before it enters the chimney.

List of facts, pertaining to pellet stoves & flash combustion stoves most are unaware of:

1. Pellet stoves may be cheaper to vent, but cost \$1500 more than a comparable flash combustion wood stove or insert. A high heat output pellet stove costs about \$4000, versus a similar sized wood stove costing \$1900 Tahoma T1600 or a larger \$2500 Tahoma T2100.
2. FC stoves and inserts use half the wood of air-tight stoves, (80% efficient, vs 45% for air tight stoves. Cord wood at 80% efficiency, cuts heating costs, with half the wood and ash handling as well.
3. Pine logs and scrap wood is often free. Pine wood used to be forbidden, due to rapid soot buildup and chimney fires. Pine and scrap wood now burns smoke free out the chimney, if fully seasoned.
4. FC stoves have an air wash system for clean glass fire viewing, unlike an ugly pellet flame. Beautiful fire views that make it the centerpiece of the home.
5. With clean glass, there are less frequent walks to open the stove door to check if refueling is needed.
6. The long burn time of a pellet stove is when you adjust it down to heat the area of a large bathroom. Turn the pellet stove up to heat a 1500 square foot home, and find it has the same burn time than today's Flash Combustion stoves, that burn longer due to the big efficiency increase. In other words, they have the same or better burn times, given same area heated & weight of wood fuel used.
7. Pellet stoves require expensive \$300 yearly cleaning maintenance, and must be documented, in order to maintain the warranty. Then after 3-5 years, repair / maintenance costs often outweigh its benefits.
8. Most FC customers, including myself, go over 10 years without chimney cleaning, saving thousands.
9. Pellets absorb water or humidity, triggering time consuming auger cleaning maintenance.
10. Pellet stoves do not work during power outages without an expensive battery backup system.
11. The pellet fan and auger make continuous noise and need frequent service.
12. Ash removal is more frequent with pellet than a FC stove.
13. With a good wood carrier, or with processed oak wood 'bricks'(large pellets) it can be easy and clean to transport wood, without back breaking 40 lb bags of pellets.
14. Pellets come in heavy 40-pound bags. At least with wood, you can choose to carry less than 40 lbs (pick up less logs). Pellets cannot be stored outside.
15. It is unlikely there will be enough new construction sawdust to meet the previous demand for pellets, let alone the increase in demand this year. Typically, by late fall, there are little to no pellets to be found. Pellet stoves often fail to heat the stated levels of sq/feet space advertised, whereas, FC wood stoves can far exceed the stated area. When dry wood & strong chimney draft turn a FC stove red hot, you'll need a well-engineered wood stove to hold up under such conditions, such as the models sold at Fireside Stove, at discounted pricing. All stoves and inserts in stock, with fast installation.

Some of these claims sound too good to be true, which makes it fun to prove by demonstration. Please call for a demonstration. Walk in's are hit or miss. John Debar, 401-783-6054. Since 1987.