

## Smoke from Chimneys Fact Sheet

The whole of Derby is covered by a Smoke Control Area. Smoke Control Areas concern smoke from chimneys and not smoke from bonfires.

### Why have Smoke Control Areas?

The first Clean Air Act was introduced in 1956 as a result of one of the worst environmental disasters recorded in this country. In February 1952 over 4000 deaths occurred in a five day period and were attributed to a London smog caused mainly by coal burning. The Clean Air Acts allowed Councils to establish Smoke Control Areas to improve air quality by burning cleaner fuels in these areas. In order to maintain the improvements in air quality that have been achieved over the years by establishing smoke control areas in Derby it is important that everyone continues to comply with this legislation.

### What can I burn on my heating appliance?

Clean fuels that burn without giving rise to smoke, such as gas and fuel oil, as well as electric heating can be used in a smoke control area.

Solid fuels can also be used although, as ***it is an offence to emit smoke from a chimney in a smoke control area***, you should make sure that you:

#### **Use an authorised (smokeless) fuel**

These fuels are often referred to as 'smokeless fuels' and as they burn with minimum smoke they can be burnt on open grate fires. Coal and wood are not authorised fuels and should not be burnt on such fires. Note that closed solid fuel heating appliances are often designed to burn specific authorised fuels to ensure their safe use.

***Or***

#### **Use an exempt heating appliance**

Any coal, wood or other solid fuel, which is not authorised smokeless fuel, should be burnt on an exempt heating appliance. These appliances are designed to burn all their own smoke. Note that the type of coal, wood or other fuel that must be burnt on an exempt appliance so that it does not emit smoke is specified by the manufacturer and the manufacturer's recommendations must be followed. For example only dry wood (moisture content of less than 25%) should be burnt on any wood burning exempt appliance.

A full list of both authorised 'smokeless fuels' and 'exempt appliances' can be obtained from the Council, Telephone 01332 642020 or at <http://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk>

Your local coal merchant should also be able to help you.

### **What else do I need to know?**

- ❖ The way in which fuel is lit must cause minimum smoke. Sticks and paper or firelighters are both accepted methods of lighting solid fuel.
- ❖ It is an offence of any person or company to obtain or deliver coal, wood or any other fuel which is not authorised smokeless fuel for use on an appliance which is not exempt for use in a smoke control area.
- ❖ Large solid fuel installations have some exemptions from this legislation although excessive smoke from such plant is not permitted.

### **Where can I get further Information?**

Please contact the Environmental Health Department on 01332 642020

<b><u>Key Points</u></b>	
<b><u>Appliance</u></b>	<b><u>What you should burn</u></b>
Gas appliances Electric appliances Oil fired appliances	Burn without causing smoke and can be used in a smoke control area
Open fires	Burn smokeless fuel only. Do not burn wood or coal
Closed room heaters/stoves (other than exempt appliances)	Burn smokeless fuel only. Do not burn wood or coal
Exempt appliances	May burn wood or coal <u>but must</u> be to the manufacturers recommendations