



New rules on log burners as people could face £300 fine and criminal record

Description

People who have wood burners in their homes have been warned of a £300 fine as well as a possibility of a criminal record, following a rule change.

A new law which came in in 2022 now states people who have wood burners in their homes now have to follow a number of clean air regulations and exemptions to ensure their wood burners are suitable for use. It is estimated that more than 1.5 million people now have log burners in their homes.

Anyone who fails to abide by these rules could be forced to pay a £300 fine, or even up to £1,000, as well as a criminal record, according to The Times.

The new laws came into force last year, concerning the type of log burner you can buy and what you can put in it. It follows research which found wood burners cause almost 50 per cent of people's exposure to cancer-causing chemicals found in air pollution particles in urban areas.

Although the new law has been criticised by some people, including by Lance Forman. The former MEP for London has slammed ministers over recent reports of a crackdown on wood-burning stoves that fail to meet the UK emissions standards, reports Derbyshire Live.

A traditional log burner
(Image: Housecompetition)

Mr Forman tweeted: "On the spot fine for wood burners. Let's hope they don't start fining fish smokers next! Another idiotic policy from the Tories. Drax power station burns wood pellets shipped across the Atlantic. Is there no end to the hypocrisy and derangement when it comes to net zero."

Although wood burners were once seen as an eco-friendly heating solution, the rate of trees being planted does not keep up with the amount of CO2 being released by wood burners, as reported by LeicestershireLive.

The new wood burning stove laws have been put in place in a bid to reduce harmful emissions, however as the appliances are said to account for around 38 per cent of particulate matter air pollution,

a Government report says. The Government has also ordered local councils to use powers from a law passed in 2021 to issue civil penalties for old-fashioned wood-burning stoves that do not meet the UK's standards for emissions.

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While the purchasing and installation of new log burners is not banned, there is a production ban on older stoves. A statement from the government said: "In England you may have to pay a penalty of up to £300 if your local council decides your chimney releases too much smoke. You can be fined up to £1,000 if you burn unauthorised fuel without an exempt appliance."

By Robbie Purves and Charlotte Smith Megan Banner

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