

Open fire changes in Auckland almost certain

The bylaw to ban indoor open fires and pre-2005 wood burners is likely to take effect from May 2015, subject to full-council approval and following public hearings next February. It will apply to the metropolitan Auckland and the Orewa area, but excludes rural areas and towns such as Pukekohe and Wellsford.

From October 2018 the use of open wood fires, and pre-2005 wood burners, would be banned, if you live within the clean air shed. The use of coal for residential heating would also be banned from May 2015. This will allow homeowners and landlords time to consider alternative heating sources.

The current regulations allow for open wood fires or rural model wood burners, to be installed on properties of two hectares or more, or outside Council air sheds. Open wood fires can be installed outside, if they are used for cooking, i.e. barbeques and pizza ovens.



Why are changes being made?

Auckland Council estimate that in winter, 75% of Auckland's air pollution is due to fine particulate emissions (PM10) from open fires and old, non-compliant wood burners. The tiny particles can lodge in the lungs and has raised the level of respiratory illness in the region.

Check the Auckland Council website: [Auckland City Council>News, events and culture>News> Media releases](#)

The proposed Air Quality Bylaw will focus on the management of indoor fires to reduce the emissions of these fine particles into our air, and to meet the national environmental standards.

What you need to do if you are planning to sell your home

The council is proposing that indoor open fires must be permanently disabled as a condition of selling the home, or replaced with a gas burner. Non-compliant wood burners (those produced pre-2005) will need to be replaced with a clean-air approved appliance, or removed.

Permanently disabling an open fireplace is defined as covering the fireplace, blocking the chimney or removing the firebricks or other masonry, to the satisfaction of the council.

Upgrading heating appliances

Help to reduce air pollution by:

- Using clean heating appliances which have been approved by the Ministry for the Environment.
- Replacing old fires with more efficient clean-air approved wood burners or gas fires.
- Converting open wood fires to gas by inserting a gas burner and using natural gas or LPG gas.

Warmington has a full range of clean-air approved woodburners, and gas fires. Our experienced team can help with changing over your fire, and answer any queries you may have.

Call us: 09 273 9227 **email us:** sales@firesbydesign.co.nz **website:** www.firesbydesign.co.nz
Visit our showroom: 47 Sir William Ave, East Tamaki, Auckland.