

 West Lothian Council	Environmental Health		SUBJECT: Smoke Control Areas/Wood burning stoves
		Food Safety/Food Hygiene	NUMBER: PH13
REVISED: 29/11/2019		Health & Safety	
	✓	Public Health	
STATUS: PUBLIC ADVICE	✓	Pollution Control	
		Pest Control/Dog Warden	

Information Sheet PH13 Smoke Control Areas and Wood Burning Stoves

It is becoming increasingly popular for domestic households to install alternative heat and power sources into their homes. With a resultant increase in the installation of solid fuel burning stoves and open fires, it is important to consider the possible implications of burning solid fuel.

Things to Consider

Before installing apparatus for burning solid fuel in your home you should consider the following;

- Whether your property is within a Smoke Control Area
- The potential Nuisance from smoke or smell to neighbours;
- Planning implications of any installation; and
- Building Standards requirements for installations.

Smoke Control Areas

Through legislation developed to deal with historic smogs in the UK, Smoke Control Areas have been introduced in many towns and cities to control the emission of smoke from domestic properties. In Smoke Control Areas it is an offence to emit smoke from a domestic property and to use “unauthorised fuel” unless it is used in an “exempt” appliance. Up to date lists of authorised fuels and exempt appliances (fireplaces/stoves) can be found via <https://www.gov.uk/smoke-control-area-rules>

The designated Smoke Control Area in West Lothian covers the greater Livingston area. A map of this area can be viewed via the West Lothian Council Website.

Nuisance from Smoke or the Smell of Smoke

You should consider whether installing any type of solid fuel burning apparatus in your home could cause nuisance to your neighbours from any smoke you produce. Consideration should be given to:

- the design and positioning of flues and chimneys to achieve good dispersion of smoke and smell;
- the type of fuel you will be burning;
- the direction of the wind. The normal prevailing wind comes from the south-west, so smoke will normally affect others who live north east of your home; and
- the topography or shape of the ground. If you have homes uphill of yours in the direction smoke will travel, it is much more difficult to avoid causing smell nuisance to those neighbours.

Planning Implications

There may be planning implications with regard to the siting and design of flues and chimneys associated with appliances burning solid fuel. The Planning service can be contacted on via the customer contact centre on 01506 280000, by e-mail on planning@westlothian.gov.uk or via the West Lothian Council website (www.westlothian.gov.uk/planning-and-building-standards).

More Information

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Health on 01506 280000 or environmentalhealth@westlothian.gov.uk, and we will try to help.

Useful websites include:

- <https://www.gov.uk/smoke-control-area-rules>
<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/34743/Smoke-Control-Areas>