



# Clean air rules take a back seat this winter



*While clean air is still important for our community, this winter it's more important that you keep yourself warm.*

**If your home or heating has been earthquake-damaged we understand that your first priority will be to stay warm and healthy. We want to assure you that we will not take action if the earthquake means you need to use an old woodburner or open fire to stay warm this winter.**

## ***Check your heating is safe***

If you think your heating appliance or chimney has been damaged, before you use it please have it checked. You can get more information on what to look for and who to ask for help at [www.fire.org.nz](http://www.fire.org.nz)

## ***Help for those with chimney damage***

If your chimney has been significantly damaged you may be able to get help to install cleaner heating. Visit [www.eeca.govt.nz](http://www.eeca.govt.nz) for more information.

## ***Use dry wood for a better burn***

Burning dry wood produces less air pollution and gives you more heat for your money. Avoid smoke nuisance: Make sure your firewood is dry and untreated and store it under cover.

## ***Using older heating in an emergency***

If there is an unexpected power cut lasting three hours or more, you can use an old woodburner or open fire, whether your home has been earthquake-damaged or not.

## ***We will still respond if called***

The clean air rules for Christchurch and Kaiapoi remain in place and we will still respond to calls about smoky chimneys. However, we will be sensitive to earthquake-related circumstances and where there are good reasons why older heating is being used, no penalties will apply.

## ***Please call us***

If you have any concerns about your circumstances and want to discuss them or seek advice please call customer services on 03 353 9007, freephone 0800 324 636.

## ***What are the clean air rules?***

In Christchurch, woodburners older than 15 years and open fires cannot be used from 1 April to 30 September each year. Their use is also banned in Kaiapoi all year round. For more detail on the rules, see [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz).

*Together we can improve our air*