

Consumer guide for  
**Ecodesign  
compliant  
stoves**



## **The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is the Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) for Ecodesign and Energy Labelling in Ireland.**

From January 1, 2022, EU regulations mandate that stoves meet specific standards for efficiency and environmental impact. Aligned with the broader Ecodesign Directive, these regulations aim to enhance the overall energy and environmental performance of products. Ecodesign compliance ensures that products, including stoves, meet minimum efficiency and environmental criteria. SEAI, in its role as the MSA, reviews stoves for compliance with Ecodesign Regulation (EU) 2015/1185 and Energy Labelling Regulation (EU) 2015/1186.

### **Other heating alternatives**

We recommend that you look at all the various options to figure out which heating system is most appropriate for you, your air quality and the environment. Heating systems, such as a heat pump or solar thermal system have a low carbon impact and do not negatively affect air quality. Similarly, modern gas or oil condensing boilers produce lower air pollution compared to older stoves and open fireplaces. Therefore, carefully consider your options before deciding on the purchase of a stove, aligning with both your heating needs and environmental goals.

### **Taking control of your heating needs and your environment goals**

If you choose to install a Ecodesign compliant stove, the requirements of the regulations will mean it has the potential to have a reduced environmental impact compared to older stoves and open fireplaces. Ecodesign compliant stoves are designed to be more efficient, emitting less pollution and contributing less to air pollution. It is important to recognise that any air quality benefits gained from installing an Ecodesign compliant stove will only emerge if it is replacing a more polluting installation. On the other hand, replacing a cleaner heating option with a new stove could result in increased air pollution. So, your existing heating system plays an important role in determining the net environmental impact of your choice.

# What is an Ecodesign compliant stove?

It's a type of wood only or multi-fuel stove that meets specific European Union regulations designed to reduce environmental impact and optimise energy use compared to older stoves or open fires.

This is the minimum legal requirement for stoves placed on the market in the EU since 1st January 2022.

The key principles of Ecodesign include:



## Energy efficiency and lower consumption

Heat your room, but with less fuel! Newer stoves are engineered for optimal fuel use, giving you the same heat output as older stoves but with lower fuel consumption.



## Respect for the environment and lower emissions

Breathe easier and make a lesser environmental impact! These stoves emit less air pollution than older models, thus reducing their impact on the environment and health.



## Reducing the impact on air quality

Using cleaner technology, a new heating stove can reduce the impact on air quality, if it replaces an older, less efficient stove or open fire.

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## Ecodesign compliance

When choosing to buy a stove, it's a minimum legal requirement for stoves placed on the market since 1st January 2022 to be Ecodesign compliant. Make sure to ask the retailer or manufacturer about the stove's Ecodesign status.



## 5 simple steps for purchasing an Ecodesign compliant stove

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Your older stove might have hidden costs that extend beyond your monthly bills. Unlike modern, Ecodesign compliant stoves, older stoves have the potential to be less efficient and can significantly contribute to higher air pollution and health impacts.

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## Importance of using the right fuel

Ask the retailer about the stove's fuel requirements. Some stoves are designed for wood only, others for coal-based fuels, and some can accommodate both. Using the incorrect fuel type can compromise the stove's efficiency, and it's essential to note that using non-preferred fuels might also potentially void the warranty.

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It's crucial to be clear on which fuel is appropriate for your chosen stove.

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Using unsuitable fuel can result in elevated air pollution levels, increased maintenance costs, and potential damage to the appliance. This step helps you select a stove that meets both environmental standards and your fuel preferences.

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## Check for CE marking

Look for a CE marking on the stove. Why is this important? The CE marking on the stove has many important functions, but here are three key ones:

**Quality:** When you're shopping for a stove, you should look for the CE mark. The CE mark must be affixed by the manufacturer once they have completed a 'declaration of conformity' in relation to the product. It is their indication that the product complies with all relevant EU product legislation. If there is no CE mark, the product should not have been supplied.

### **Builds Consumer**

**Confidence:** Signifies that the product is legally allowed to be sold in the EU.

### **Maintains Market**

**Integrity:** Helps regulators monitor products, ensuring that only compliant items are available for purchase.

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## Verify the product information

Check the product information to confirm the EU registered business's name, address, and product details, which should be clearly visible either on the stove or in its accompanying documents.

Additionally, check for the make and model number of the product, as it aids in accurately verifying the specific stove you're buying.

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## Check for an instruction manual

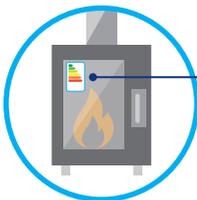
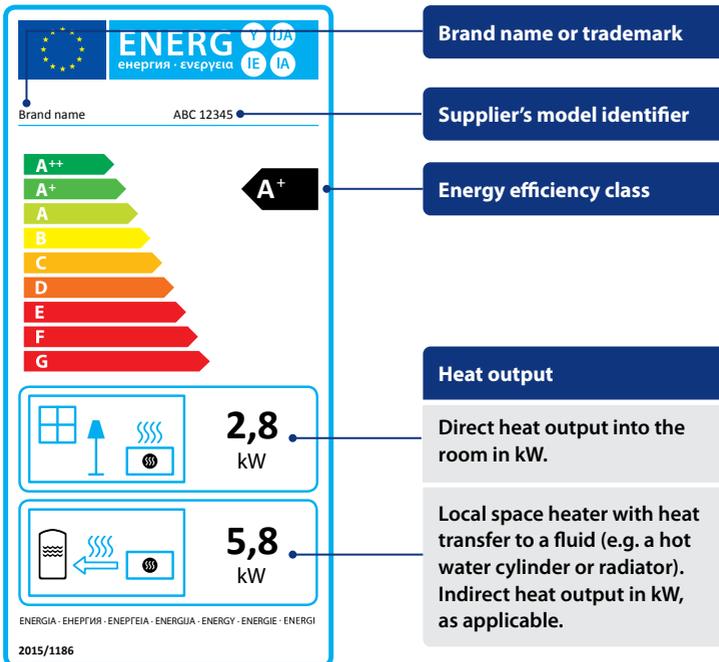
Ensure that the stove comes with an instruction manual, covering essential safety, usage, and installation guidelines. Pay particular attention to the lighting instructions, as Ecodesign compliant stoves may require unique lighting methods compared to older stoves. These specific methods are designed to reduce air pollutants and increase energy efficiency and must be followed for optimal performance and safety.



If you suspect that a product might not comply with Ecodesign and Energy Labeling Regulations, please provide details such as the name and addresses marked on the product, make and model number, as well as the name and address of the store where the product is located when contacting the SEAI Market Surveillance Authority at [info@seai.ie](mailto:info@seai.ie)

# Energy labels on stoves

Energy labels help consumers to choose the most energy-efficient product, lowering energy bills and reducing the impact on the environment. A stove energy label is shown below. It will make it easier for you to **make an informed choice about the most appropriate heating option** for your circumstances.



**Energy label positioning**

Energy labels should be displayed on the front of the stove in a visible manner.



For more information on Energy Labelling Regulation (EU) 2015/1186, please visit our website

# Ireland's Clean Air Strategy

**The main sources of air pollution in Ireland are burning solid fuels in open fires or stoves in homes. They are discouraged where cleaner alternatives are available.**

The Irish Government's Clean Air Strategy aims to identify and promote measures to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner ambient air.

Where cleaner alternatives are not available, upgrading to an Ecodesign stove can help to reduce the amount of air pollution emitted from your home.

New solid fuel regulations were introduced in October 2022 to ensure the most polluting solid fuels are no longer available to buy. While these regulations do not prohibit the burning of specific fuels, it is crucial to note that stove manufacturers must specify the permissible solid fuels for use in their products.

For more details, please visit [www.gov.ie/cleanair](http://www.gov.ie/cleanair)





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