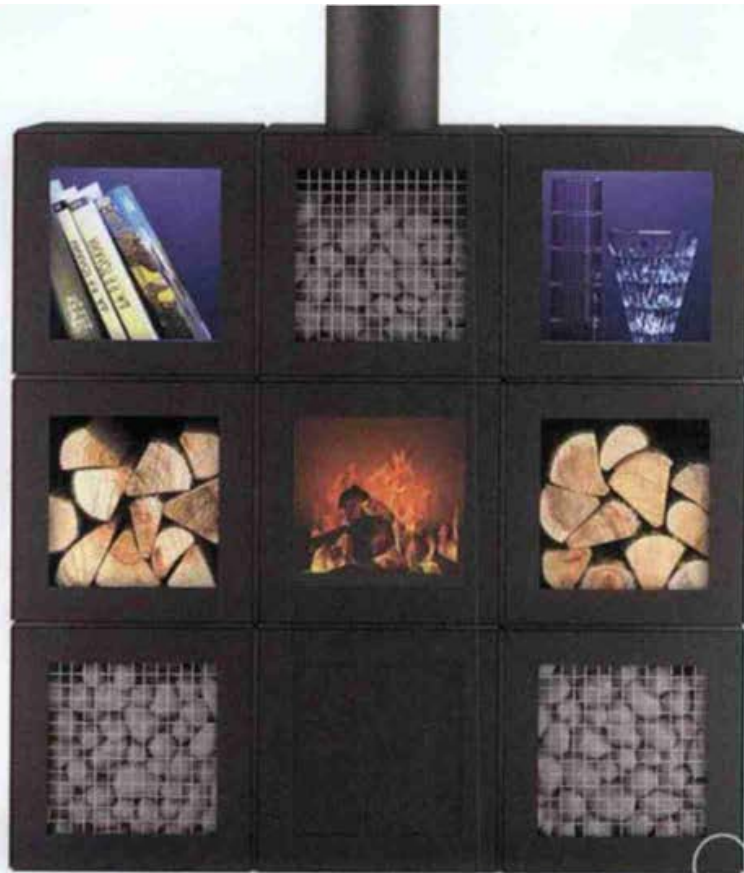




WOOD BURNING STOVES



LIGHT ~~MY~~ YOUR FIRE

GREAT DESIGN AND HIGH EFFICIENCY MARK A
NEW GENERATION OF WOOD BURNING STOVES

Nothing beats a wood fire: the snap and crackle of logs aflame, the hypnotic glow of burning embers... warming body and soul on many a winter's night. But the brightening embrace is darkened somewhat by the realities of climate change, especially in view of this year's unprecedented fire season.*

Even so, compared to the true carbon footprint of propane or natural gas, burning wood for fuel is not the bugaboo it's been cast as. While woodstoves emit more fine particulate matter than natural gas appliances, all of that "clean" energy comes with a high carbon price tag, not limited to disruption of communities at the extraction source, high methane emissions (a gas that traps heat at an exponentially greater rate than CO₂), and the high carbon costs

WORDS: Joseph Starr

of transportation. So especially if you can harvest your own wood (as many of us in the front range and surrounding communities can), it's a viable heating alternative—just remember to only use “standing dead” or fallen trees. We need the live ones to continue sequestering carbon!

Here's a roundup of some of the top woodstoves on the market today. All of these use state-of-the-art technology of multiple chamber combustion, meaning first the wood is burned, then the particulates and gases are captured in a secondary chamber and burned again—resulting in greater efficiency and fewer emissions.

1 BEST IN EUROPE **THOR BY MCZ FIREPLACE**

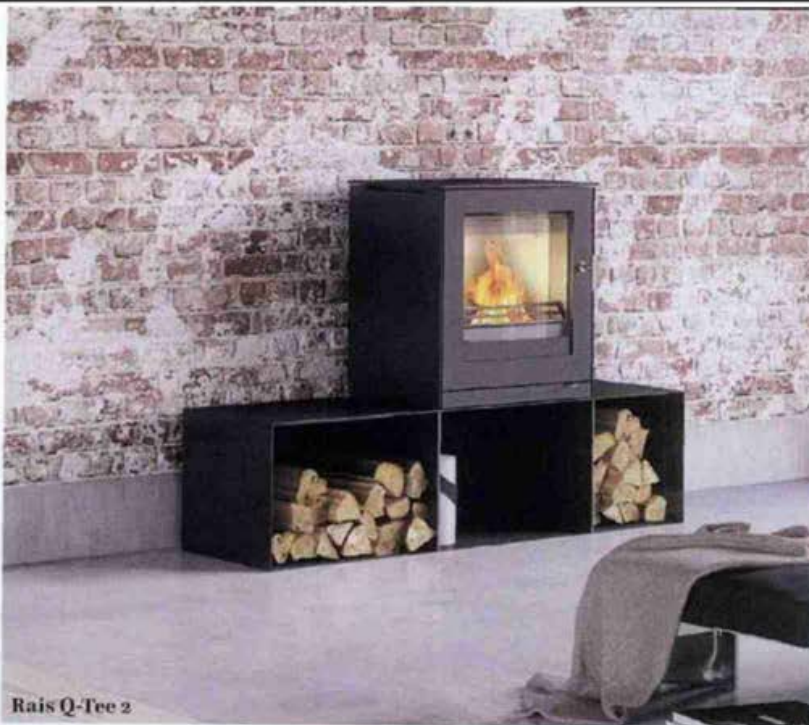
Europe's Ecodesign 2022 initiative mandates restrictions on efficiency and particulate emissions, and MCZ Fireplace offers multiple models that not only meet the new requirements but have been doing so for years. Thor is a slick and compact stove with an elliptical design. Its sealed structure means it gathers all the oxygen it needs from outside for greater burn control and very little impact on indoor air quality.



Thor by MCZ Fireplace



Colorado's burn ban technically expired on October 1. However, this restriction only applied to outdoor fires with no effect on indoor wood burning. Counties in the Denver Metro area (including Boulder) are regulated by "Air Quality Action" days during the Nov. 1 – March 31 heating season. On these days of high particulate emissions, only those with EPA Phase II or Colorado Phase III approved woodstoves (or approved pellet stoves) are permitted to burn wood. This year the EPA enacted Phase IV restrictions, meaning new woodstoves will be permitted for installation only if they meet the new requirements of maximum 2.5 grams per hour emissions. Both Stuv 30 and Rais Q-Tee 2 meet these new requirements. Because Europe uses a different method than the U.S. to calculate emissions, Speetbox and Thor are not approved for U.S. use, even though they are exceptionally clean-burning stoves.



WOOD BURNING STOVES

Rais Q-Tee 2

2 BEST AVAILABLE IN U.S. RAIS Q-TEE 2

Manufactured in Denmark for distribution out of Oregon, the Q-Tee 2 is a triumph of space economy. It's super compact yet offers an oversized 17" firebox, allowing room for larger logs. This also translates to a large window with a great view of the fire. The Q-Tee 2 is a convection stove, meaning air is pulled from the base of the fireplace and up, so circulation remains high and the sides of the stove never get too hot. The Q-Tee 2's low emissions rate of .9 grams/hr. easily exceeds the latest EPA Phase IV restrictions on new stoves.

3 BEST LOCALLY AVAILABLE STUV-30 COMPACT H

Like Thor, the Stuv-30 Compact H (available from Rocky Mountain Fireplace) is a cool and contained piece. A rotating drum feature adds novelty while always giving a good view of the flames, and a sealed combustion circuit with outdoor air capture improves efficiency. Lastly, Stuv-30 offers custom floor plate options for enhanced aesthetics.



STUV-30 Compact H



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BEST OVERALL

PHILIPPE STARCK SPEETBOX

Back to Europe we go for Philippe Starck's Sublime Speetbox—an eco-friendly and innovative concept that transcends the notion of heating appliance to enter the realm of modular design. Speetbox features a small firebox surrounded by any number of matching units that may be used to store firewood or capture heat. The stones therein provide a compelling look while also maximizing efficiency—offering diffuse warmth long after the fire has gone out.








Speetbox



BEFORE YOU STRIKE A MATCH

HOWS AND WHYS OF WOODBURNING IN COLORADO

-  All stoves meeting EPA Phase II requirements are exempt from "Air Quality Action Day" restrictions, meaning you can burn wood or pellets year-round.
-  Older and non-conforming stoves may burn on days when no restrictions are in place.
-  Restrictions vary outside of the front range, so check your county or municipality for details.
-  Wood harvesting is allowed throughout Colorado with an approved permit, however the process is a bit complicated this year because of COVID and the high forest fire activity. For information see the USD A Forest Service at: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/passes-permits/forestproducts
-  You should only burn "seasoned" firewood, meaning the wood has been dead for at least year in order to dry properly. You should never cut down live trees. Because of recent pine beetle infestations, Colorado's forests have an abundance of standing dead or fallen trees that are good for immediate burning.