

Kuuma Wood-Burning Sauna Stove

Operation Guidelines (Updated 2021)

1. Only use cordwood as fuel and never burn garbage, gasoline, or other flammable liquids.
2. This stove operates most efficiently using seasoned cordwood (wood that has been cut, split, and cured for at least six months).
3. Before installing in your hot room, cure the stove in a well-ventilated area. Add on a 3-4 foot section of stove pipe and start a small fire (see #6) with the draft control set at 25% open or less and let it burn until it burns out. The stove might pop, crackle, and smoke which are all good things. The smoke and fumes are completely non-toxic but have a strong odor.
4. The stove is hot while in operation. So don't touch and keep children, clothing, and combustibles (wood) away. Direct contact will cause severe burns to the skin.
5. The air damper is designed to control combustion airflow to your sauna stove for efficient operation. Become familiar with its purpose for the safe and optimal operation of your Kuuma sauna stove.
6. For starting your Kuuma sauna stove, there are two methods that we recommend;
 - a. Standard Method
 - i. Place paper and dry kindling (small pieces of wood that easily catch fire) into the front half of the fire chamber.
 - ii. Stack 4 to 7 pieces of dry cordwood on top of the kindling, keeping front wood at least 1" away from the stove front (never directly against the front). If the wood is longer, it should go against the back wall.
 - b. Upside Down Method
 - i. Stack 4-7 pieces of dry cordwood into a cleaned-out firebox, free from ash, keeping front wood at least 1" away from the stove front (never directly against the front). If the wood is longer, it should go against the back wall.
 - ii. On top of the wood, place a generous amount of crumpled paper and dry kindling (small pieces of wood that easily catch fire).
7. To light the fire, completely open the air damper, light the paper, close the firebox door.
8. To prevent damage, never let the air damper run wide-open for longer than 10 minutes.
9. Adjust the air damper to normal operation (25% open) for regular usage and pre-heating of the sauna room.
10. If your wood has a higher moisture content, the air damper might need to be around 50% open. Never regularly operate the stove with the air damper higher than 50% open.
11. If you wish to add wood while the fire is burning, first pull the remaining wood and coals to the front of the stove, keeping at least a 1" from the front. Then place additional wood (2-4 pieces) on top of the coals.
12. Adjust the air damper to the closed position to reduce the fire and heat.
13. Between sauna sessions, remove ashes from the fire chamber using the included rake or a small shovel. Then, discard ashes into a non-combustible container in a safe

location. Ash may smolder for 24 hours or longer, so be sure that everything is cold and there are no embers.

14. Inspect the stovepipe regularly for creosote (a flammable by-product of wood combustion that consists mainly of a tar-like substance) and soot accumulation.
15. The stove or stovepipe should never become red or glow, which indicates overfiring or possible fire. Both are extremely dangerous, and you need to reduce air immediately by closing the air damper.
16. Always use common sense when burning wood! For example, never burn with the air draft wide-open for more than 5-10 minutes, only to pre-heat the firebox and wood.
17. If you purchased the optional stainless steel water tank and have it attached to the stove, maintain at least a half-full level at all times. Drain the tank empty when not in use to prevent freezing and cracking of the tank.