

# Landscape Wood Heaters

## Lighting Guide

A landscape fireplace provides lovely clean lines, a large visual of the fire and adds a stunning feature to any home. However, due to the shape of the fireplace, new emission requirements and longevity of the product, a landscape heater takes longer to start than a square heater.

For a slow combustion heater to function, updraft is required on the flue system and this updraft is created by getting the firebox, and then the flue, hot. To achieve this, the door must be left ajar when first starting the fire to push hot air up through the cold flue, removing what is called the 'cold air plug.' If the flue is not yet hot and the updraft (draw) is therefore not created, this will cause the fire to go out when closing the door.

Lighting a fire will perform differently from day to day depending on a number of factors including how cold flue is, wind conditions, outside air temperatures, etc. In certain conditions the heater may start quite slowly and other days it may start quickly, this is normal.

It is also true that lighting a fire will be different depending on the shape, size and amount of glass on the firebox door/s. As outlined above, to start your fireplace and correctly establish the draw in the flue, the firebox and flue need to be hot. The larger the firebox, the longer this takes to achieve because there is more volume to heat. This is also exacerbated when there is more glass on a fireplace because heat travels easily through glass. Therefore, the more glass, the more heat that is lost from inside the firebox. The last element that affects lighting a fire is the shape of a heater; due to the fact heat naturally rises, a wider firebox can lead to cold air pockets towards each side which take longer to heat up. To avoid this, it is more efficient to light two kindling fires inside a landscape heater, rather than one in the middle. Two fires will ensure heat easily and readily moves all the way to the sides of the firebox.

It is not just starting the fire that will be different for a landscape heater, reloading the heater also needs to be adjusted. Each time you open door to refuel, let heater run on high for at least thirty minutes. This will ensure heater is running at its maximum temperature.

As a rule of thumb, if the glass on door is dirty the heater is probably not running hot enough or poor-quality wood with a high moisture content is being used. Running a wood fire with high moisture content wood will present issues on any fireplace but will be exacerbated on landscape units because wet wood burns at a lower temperature. Wet wood will also produce a dirtier smoke and will cause creosote to build up in the flue system which can result in a flue fire.