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Lighting Instructions



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Contura

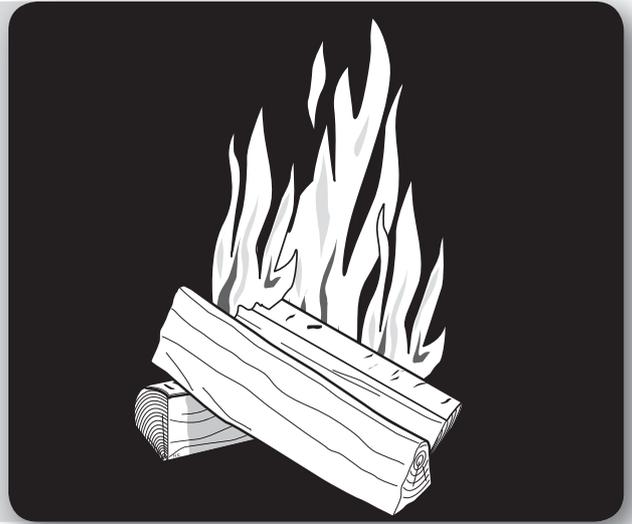
Lighting in the right way

Your Contura fireplace is intended to produce secondary heating for the accommodation. It is important that the correct amount of wood is used, especially when lighting. If you are lighting the fire for the first time, you should use a set of scales to see how much 2.0 kg kindling is. Also check what the normal and maximum weights look like.

The fireplace may only be lit with the door closed.

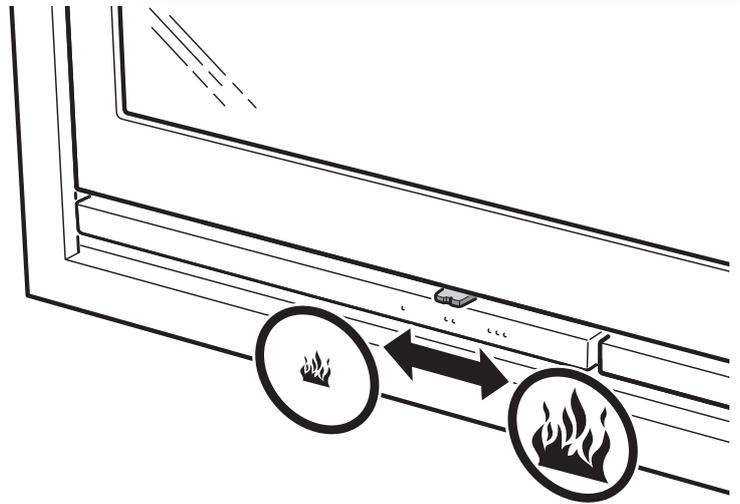
Always open the door carefully and slowly to prevent blow back because of the changing pressure in the firebox.

Combustion is affected by the draft in the chimney and the quality of the wood. Achieving the correct setting for the combustion air damper, suitable size and amount of wood usually takes a few attempts.



The damper

- The damper is opened by moving the control to the right.
- Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use to prevent the room air flowing out and condensation building up in the chimney.
- Never close the damper before the embers have burnt out.



Lighting

Note that if too little kindling is used when lighting, or if the wood is too thickly cut, the firebox will not reach the correct operating temperature. Incorrect lighting can lead to poor combustion with heavy sooting and may result in the fire going out when the door is shut.

If the fireplace is connected to outdoor air, it may be necessary to open a window near to the fireplace prior to lighting. Leave the window open for a few minutes until the fire has caught properly.

1. Open the control for the combustion air fully.
2. Stack the finely chopped wood crosswise in the firebox.
3. Place a firelighter in the middle of the stack of wood and light it.
4. Close the door. A slight amount of soot may build up on the glass during the start-up fire. This is normal and vanishes after a period of time.
5. A fresh load of logs should not be put on until the start-up fire has become a glowing bed of embers.

Kindling:

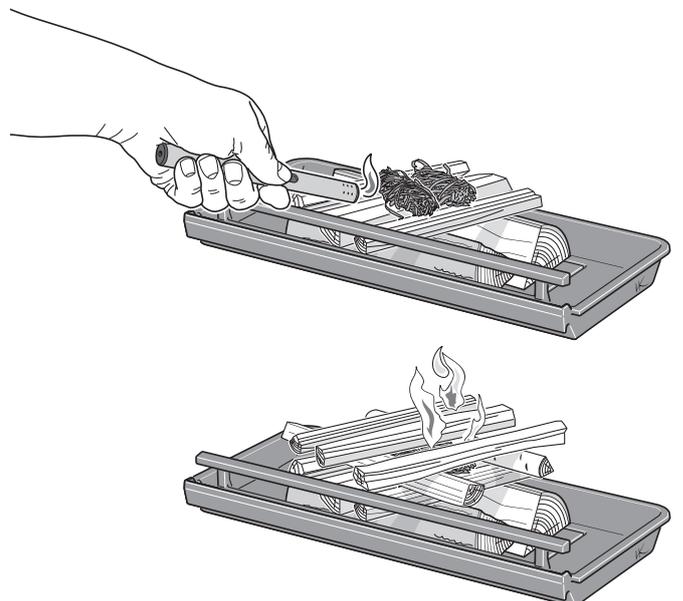
Finely chopped wood

Length: 25-33 cm

Diameter: 2 - 5 cm

Weight per lighting: 2.0 kg

(approx. 8-12 finely chopped pieces)



Adding wood

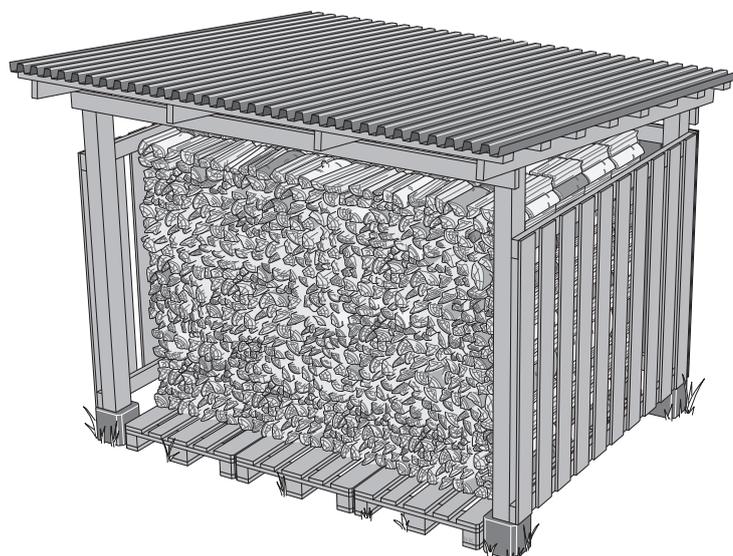
1. Open the door a few centimetres and allow the vacuum in the firebox to equalise for a few seconds before opening the door fully.
2. Add 2-3 logs of a combined weight of approx 1.6-1.8 kg. Lay the logs diagonally on each other so that the flame can take easily. Then close the hatch.
3. The combustion damper must be completely open for 3-5 minutes or until the logs turn black and catch fire. If slower combustion is then required, the supply of combustion air can be reduced. The conditions for controlling combustion vary depending on the temperature in the firebox and the draft in the chimney.
4. An average energy output of 7 kW is achieved when the combustion air damper is 50% open and 2 logs weighing about 1.6-1.8 kg are burning.
5. The lowest output of 4-5 kW is obtained when the combustion air damper is 30% open. In this operating position, it is very important that the combustion air damper is fully open for the first 3-5 minutes so that the wood has time to burn properly before the supply of combustion air is reduced. In order to maintain good combustion the combustion air damper must never be closed to less than 30% open. A condition for regulating the output is a thick bed of embers and high temperature in the firebox. When the fire has died down to embers more wood should be added.

IMPORTANT!

It is important that the wood catches fire quickly. Quick lighting is achieved by opening the combustion air damper fully for a moment. Smoulder combustion produces a lot of smoke and, in the worst instance, can cause quick gas ignition resulting in firebox damage.

Choosing fuel

All types of wood, such as birch, beech, oak, elm, ash, conifers and fruit trees can be used as fuel in the fireplace. Different types of trees have different densities; the greater the density of the wood, the greater the energy value. Oak, beech and birch have the highest density.



Feeding Wood:

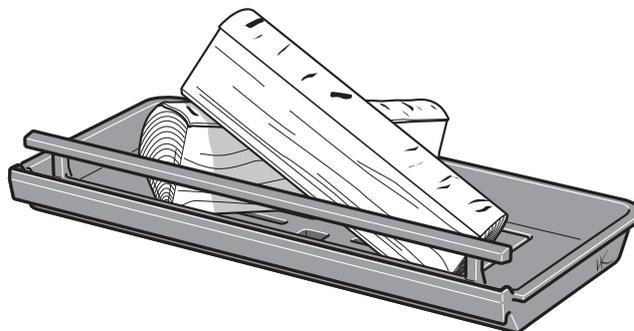
Split logs

Length: 25-50 cm

Diameter: 7 - 9 cm

Normal weight: 2.1 kg/hour (2 pieces)

Max amount: 2.7 kg/hour (max 3 pieces per insertion.)



Lighting for the first time

When new, the fireplace may emit a particular odour because the fireplace is new. The odour will disappear completely after several fires.

The wood's moisture content

Fresh wood is about 50 per cent water. The wood must always be dried so that the moisture content is below 20%. If wood with a higher moisture content is lit, a large part of the energy content of the wood is used for boiling off the water. If the wood is damp, the combustion is also poor, layers of soot and tar build up in the chimney and could, at worst, lead to a chimney fire. In addition, it causes the glass of the stove to soot and may cause discomfort to those living nearby.

To ensure thoroughly dry wood, the wood should be cut in the winter and stored, well aired, under a roof. Never cover the woodpile with a tarpaulin to the ground. The tarpaulin will then act as a sealed cover and the wood will be prevented from drying. Always store a small amount of wood indoors for several days before use, so that the surface moisture has time to evaporate.



Do NOT burn the following

Under no circumstances may fossil fuels, pressure impregnated wood, painted or glued wood, chipboard, plastic or colour brochures be used as fuel. All these materials can create substances that are damaging both to the environment and the fireplace. Also avoid using extremely finely chopped wood except for lighting, because it burns uncontrollably. Fuel of this type causes flashover resulting in too high output.

Candles

Do not use old candle stubs as fuel. Melted wax runs down into the stove's damper system and makes the stove unusable. Repairs for this are very expensive.

FIREBOX MAINTENANCE

The glass may become sooty with use, even if the fireplace is lit with dry wood with a moisture content of 15 – 20%. Regular cleaning with dry paper is usually sufficient to keep it clean. If the soot has been on the glass for a prolonged period, use a cleaning agent or a special soot removal agent to remove it. Such agents can be purchased from regular hardware stores or from your local stove dealer. Never use cleaning agents that contain any abrasives, these can damage the glass.

When emptying the ash-pan, ensure that there are no glowing embers. The ash must be stored in a fireproof container with a lid for at least one week before being disposed of.

Also clean inside the area where the ash-pan is located, otherwise spilled ash can prevent the ash-pan from being fully inserted.

The grate and other cast iron components in the firebox can be cleaned using a wire brush.

From a combustion point of view it is important to check gaskets, because worn gaskets hinder combustion when the stove/insert draws "extra air".

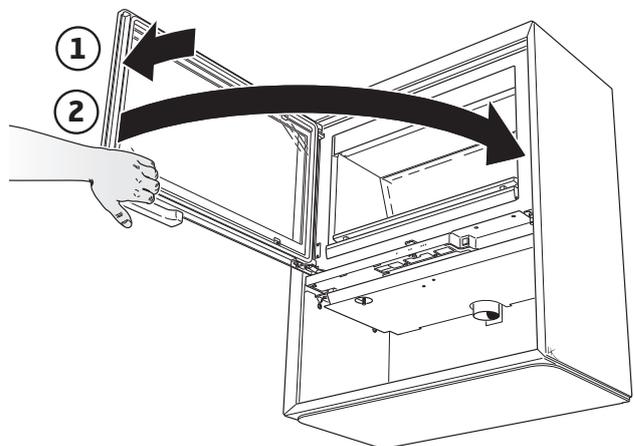
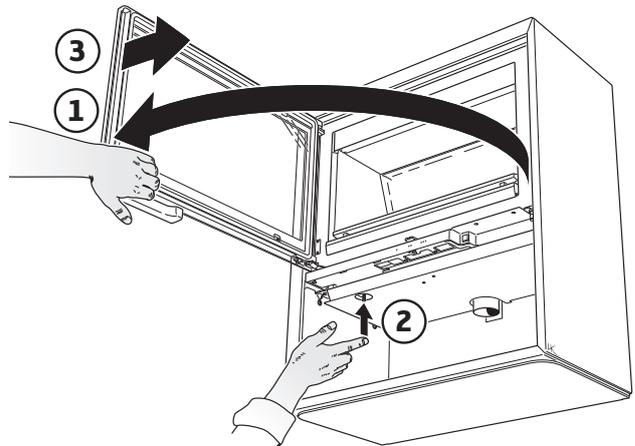
Painted parts of the fireplace can be cleaned using a damp cloth, with a small amount of detergent, if necessary. Damage to painted parts, e.g. small scratches, can be rectified with Contura touch-up paint. Contact your dealer.

As there is a constant large flow of air through the fireplace, as cold room air is drawn in and hot air released, dust can collect behind and under the fireplace. Therefore, these areas should be regularly cleaned.

Parts located near the actual seat of the fire may require replacing. Examples of such parts are the firebox panels and grate. The service life of these parts depends on how much and how the fireplace is used.

Installation of the door

The door can be held in the open position using the push button on the underside of the fireplace.



Possible causes of malfunctions and how to rectify them

There is poor draft in the fireplace after new installation

- Check the dimensions of the chimney so that they correspond to the ones stated in the installation instructions.
- Check that there is nothing in the chimney to restrict the smoke and that no nearby buildings or trees affect the wind around the chimney.

It is difficult to light the fire and the fire dies after a short time

- Check that the wood is sufficiently dry.
- Too great a negative pressure in the house, for example when using a kitchen extractor fan or other mechanical ventilation. Open a window near the firebox before lighting the fire. Also try lighting some newspaper and holding it up inside the firebox to get the draft going.
- The supply air duct from outdoors may be partially or totally blocked. Remove the hose and try test lighting with combustion air from the room.
- Check that the combustion air damper is open.
- The smoke outlet of the stove may be blocked with soot, which can occur after sweeping. Lift the smoke baffle out and check.
- Finally, go through the lighting instructions again. Perhaps the amount of kindling was too small and therefore the base embers were too weak and cold to light the next load of wood.

Abnormal amounts of soot form on the glass

There is always a certain amount of soot on the glass and this is added to with each lighting. Soot on the glass is caused by three things:

- The wood is damp, which causes poor combustion and generates a lot of smoke as a result.
- Too low temperature in the firebox, which causes incomplete combustion and poor draft in the chimney.
- The start-up fire is not made according to the instructions.

Smoke odour around the firebox at times

This can occur when wind blows down the chimney and most often occurs when the wind is from a particular direction. Another reason could be that the door was opened when there was a lot of flame.

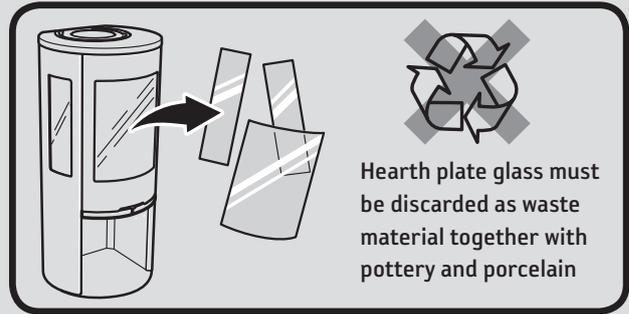
Painted parts have become discoloured

If painted parts have discoloured it is due to excessive temperature in the firebox. The reason for the excessive temperature could be that the maximum amount of wood has been used or that inappropriate fuel has been used (for example building waste, large quantities of finely chopped off cuts). The warranty does not cover damage of this type. If a problem occurs that you cannot rectify yourself, contact the dealer or a chimney sweep.

We hope that these lighting tips give you enjoyable, economical and problem free use of your Contura fireplace.

Managing waste

The stove packaging is cardboard, wood and a small amount of plastic. The materials must be sorted and recycled.



- During operation, the surfaces of the fireplace become very hot and can cause burn injury if touched.
- Also, take heed of the strong heat radiated through the door glass.
- Placing flammable material closer than the safe distance indicated may cause a fire.
- Smoulder combustion can cause quick gas ignition with the risk of damage to property and personal injury.
- The ash-pan must be emptied when it is full. If this is not done, the air supply can become blocked, resulting in poor function. In serious cases, ash can find its way out through the damper.

SWEEPING

Sweeping the chimney ducts and chimney connections should be carried out by a chimney sweep. Sweep the stove by scraping and/or brushing. A soot vacuum cleaner is most appropriate however. If a chimney fire occurs or is suspected, the combustion damper and the door must be closed. If necessary, contact the fire brigade to extinguish it. The chimney must always be inspected by a chimney sweep after a chimney fire.



Contura

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Contura reserves the right to change dimensions and procedures described in these instructions at any time without special notice. The current edition can be downloaded from www.contura.eu

