

You have invested your hard earned money in quality wood pellet fuel to keep you and your family warm during the cold winter months. Moisture is the worst enemy of wood pellets, and pellets that have been compromised because of moisture due to improper storage will impact the operation of your pellet heating appliance and this could leave you in the cold – literally. Following these simple guidelines will help ensure you always have good quality pellet fuel on hand to keep you warm.

<u>Indoor Storage (garage, basement, weather-proof shed with floor)</u>

Wood pellet producers encourage you, wherever possible to store your pellet fuel in a dry area free from dampness, mold, and excessive humidity. Moving and restacking the bags on the manufacturer's pallet is a great way to raise your pellets off the ground and protect them from spills or minor flooding.

Outdoor Storage

If you don't have room to store your pellets indoors, the next best thing is any shed or shelter in a high, dry place. Carefully inspect your fuel when it arrives and repair any rips or holes in the plastic shrouding with water proof tape or additional layers of plastic. We strongly recommend adding an additional securely fastened tarp over your skids, to protect from water and from birds or squirrels that may puncture the plastic.

Failure to follow these guidelines may void retailer and manufacturer liability and responsibility regarding product specification and quality



Outdoor storage isn't recommended. However, if you don't have access to indoor storage, below is some season specific advice for keeping your wood pellet fuel as safe and dry as possible while stored outside.

Summer Storage

During the summer months make sure your fuel is delivered to an area in your yard or driveway that is free from any water pooling or flooding. Direct water contact from below may cause water damage and render the pellets to its original form: sawdust. Also, be mindful of any irrigation heads or water spray paths as well. In addition, should there be any trees overhead or nearby, we suggest placing a tarp over the skids. This not only protects the packaging from constant exposure to the elements, but also keeps the leaves, dirt, and bird blessings from littering the shroud that protects your bags of fuel. Check on your fuel once in a while, just to make sure the chipmunks haven't developed a condo association!

Fall Storage

Now, if your fuel has been outside for a couple of months and you are ready to fire up your stove, carefully remove the protective wrap and slice the shroud on the top edge of the skid in order to slip the top bags out. Leave the shroud on as long as you can. Use the shroud to protect the bags and cover with the tarp. Place a weighted object on top of the skid to keep the tarp in place.

Winter Storage

Shovel a path to your fuel and shovel <u>around</u> and <u>over</u> the skid. This effort will keep the snow off your fuel and help prevent any water and/or ice damage. Continue to use the shroud and tarp to protect your fuel from snow and ice.

Spring Storage

You've been warm and toasty all winter, and now it's time for spring cleaning! If you have loose bags left, find a spot in the garage or keep them outside, just protect them from the elements – as described in the seasons above.

Closely following the recommended maintenance procedures in your stove manual will further ensure years of trouble-free home heating using energy efficient and economical wood pellet fuel.

For more information, or for a copy of these instructions, visit <u>www.lacwood.ca</u>