

Pellet Fuel Info for Survey Callers

What are pellets made of?

- Wood compressed into pellet form
- No glue or additives are used (the wood resin is the binding agent)
- Wood comes from several sources
 - Proposed Fairbanks area plant would use some logged wood that is harvested in a sustainable fashion
 - Scrap wood (sawdust, waste lumber, wood scraps, bark, etc.)
 - Trees cut to reduce the risk of wild fires

What do pellets cost?

- \$4.98 for 40 lbs. at Lowe's
- Will cost about half that if local production plant is built
- Locally produced pellets will heat for about half the cost of fuel oil

How many will I use?

- Depends on the size of the space you're heating, how energy efficient that space is, and how cold it is
- Typical usage ~1 bag per day

Will I have to add pellets every day?

- No, both stoves and furnaces or boilers have options to add a feeder bin so pellets may be added less frequently

Will delivery of pellets be available?

- It is still early in the process, but if demand is there delivery will be available

Can I use pellets in my current heating system?

- No, you need either a pellet stove or a pellet furnace or boiler

Tell me more about pellet stoves.

- Pellet stoves can be installed where a wood stove might be used
- Unlike a conventional wood stove, it does not need a chimney just a vent outside
- Unlike a conventional wood stove, does not get hot to the touch outside
- Prices range \$2,000-\$3,000 depending on features and style
- Much cleaner burning, so can use even where there is an air quality ban on using wood stoves
- Because cleaner burner and no chimney there is less risk of fire, so there is no increase in home owners' insurance premiums
- Must add pellets about once a day unless you get optional bin
- Must clean ash container about once a month (can do while stove is operating)

Tell me more about pellets in a central heating system (furnace or boiler)

- Can be used to replace existing central heating unit (furnace or boiler)
- Pellet central heating systems more popular than pellet stoves in Europe

- Pellet central heating systems currently have limited availability in U.S., but is expanding
- Prices range between \$4,000 and \$6,000 depending on the square footage you need to heat; Can manually add pellets or have feeder system installed
- Must clean ash container about once a month