



PELLETS OR WOOD TO HEAT THE HOME: ECOLOGY AND SAVINGS, BUT WITH TWO DIFFERENT “STYLES”

On the one hand, wood lovers are fascinated by the beauty of crackling flames and the romantic atmosphere they create, without worrying about the operational aspects. On the other hand, who prefers practicality wants to find the fire lit and the home warm upon entering, ideally programming everything remotely from their smartphone, thereby opting for pellets.

The choice between pellets and wood highly depends on the person's lifestyle and character, but not only. Economic aspects and structural or space limits are also important and should be taken into consideration.

Here is a short list of pros and cons that may help you choose.

WOOD

Advantages

- Even if the purchased wood is already split and dried, it still costs less than pellets. Its price has also remained stable over time, without any significant variations.
- A wood-burning fireplace or stove can work, therefore warm up the house, even when there is no electricity.
- A wood fire has a brilliant, soft and natural flame, which immediately creates an atmosphere.

Disadvantages

- A wood-burning stove or fireplace can't be programmed to switch on or off. It is loaded manually.
- It is impossible to accurately determine the temperature to be reached in the home with a wood-burning stove or fireplace - it is mainly based on experience with daily use.
- The efficiency of a wood-burning product is generally lower than that of a pellet-burning product, which means that, in equal quantities, wood produces less heat than pellets.
- Wood combustion is usually not as clean as pellet combustion because it releases a greater amount of unburned particles.
- The flue required to discharge the wood fumes is larger than that required for pellet-burning products (10 cm vs. 8 cm for pellets). In addition, it is more difficult to ensure that a wood-burning product generates a perfect draught and the flue has more limitations in terms of bends and configurations. This may limit installation "creativity" as there may be points in which the product cannot be installed.
- Unless the wood-burning fireplace or stove is used sporadically, you will need to have a sufficiently large covered area to be used as a woodshed.



Plasma 85 by MCZ : the wood-burning fireplace with clean combustion

When there is no space for a woodshed, the idea is to create a built-in wood rack, like that in the photo made for the Plasma 85 wood-burning fireplace.

Plasma 85 belongs to a new generation of wood-burning products. A sealed combustion chamber guarantees high environmental performance, which falls under the stricter European certificates (Ecodesign 2022, Flamme Verte, Aria Pulita, BlmSchV Stufe 2).

MCZ has also carefully studied the practical use of the product. Using a cursor in the bottom frame of the fireplace, the air intake can be changed based on five everyday situations:

- "start" for quick ignition of the flame
- "clean" for cleaning any soot deposits off the glass
- "comfort" for a lively and balanced flame
- "performance" to heat the room quickly
- "sleep" for keeping the fireplace on at the lowest heat for a long time



Marlene L/A by Sergio Leoni: the wood-burning stove with 12 hours of prolonged heat

Avec un poêle comme Marlene L/A, vous pouvez oublier les recharges de bois toutes les deux ou trois heures. Une masse de matériau réfractaire, située dans la partie supérieure du foyer, s'unit aux propriétés naturelles d'accumulation de la céramique pour garantir 12 heures de chaleur sans recharges.

Le poêle, réalisé en céramique artisanale, travaillée à la main, est disponible en plus de 20 finitions : brillantes, vieilles, craquelées ou décorées.

PELLETS

Advantages

- Inside pellet-burning products there is a sort of spiral, called feed screw, which picks up the pellets from the tank and makes them fall into the brazier. Both the feed screw and the brazier are operated electronically. This is why pellet stoves and fireplaces can be automatically switched on according to their timetables.
- The best pellet stoves are genuine small heating systems, fully programmable. They can heat up several rooms or the entire home in fully automatic mode.
- Pellet combustion is very efficient: with the same amount, we can have more heat with pellets than with wood.
- Pellets are a standardised fuel that burns better and produces less residue than wood. This is why pellet stoves and fireplaces fall within the most restrictive parameters for obtaining the most stringent tax incentives or quality certifications.
- Flues for pellet-burning products are slightly smaller and have fewer limitations than those for wood-burning products, thereby facilitating the installation.
- Pellets can be purchased in practical 15 kg bags and are easy to store, without needing a woodshed.

Disadvantages

- The price of pellets is slightly increasing over time. This growth curve is in any case considerably lower than that recorded for fossil fuels, such as diesel or methane gas, compared to which pellets remain convenient.
- In pellet-burning products the air is blown into the brazier, which adjusts combustion but makes the flame slightly less natural than that of wood.



Doc by MCZ: the corridor stove

The reduced depth of Doc and the smoke outlet placed on the top instead of at the back make this pellet stove perfect for optimising space. It can easily be installed against the wall and simply controlled from your smartphone, both when you're home or out. This stove has two hot air outlets on the top. Depending on your needs, they can be left as they are, if the installation room is quite large. Alternatively, either both or just one can be channelled through wall piping to heat adjacent rooms up to a distance of 8 metres.



Maria Sofia by Sergio Leoni: a firebox as big as a wood-burning stove

The firebox of Maria Sofia is deeper and taller than other pellet stoves on the market. This way, the flame can move freely and is more natural looking. The fire can be seen clearly through the large front glass which, thanks to calibrated air inflows, is always clean and free from ash deposits. Practical and programmable, this stove also has a very large ash pan. Just empty it once a week.



Cute by MCZ: small dimensions and a wide flame

Cute is easy to install, for example inside an old open fireplace. The smoke outlet is simply fit into the existing flue. Even though the Cute flame is pellet-burning, it is large and pleasant and resembles a wood fire. This is possible thanks to the particularly-shaped brazier, which is narrow and long, where the pellets are evenly deposited. Once they are lit, the effect is very natural.

MCZ offers an extensive range of pellet-fuelled or wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, featuring a variety of shapes, sizes, colours and materials. We can also meet many different heating requirements, for example you can choose simple heating for a single room or other heating solutions for an open space or even for an entire house or flat.

Furthermore, MCZ believes it is important to offer the end customer an excellent service. MCZ retailers are actually consultants, who are available to assist the customer throughout all project stages: starting from a preliminary study of your requirements and a technical inspection, through to preparing a quote for the project and, finally, installation and the first start-up.

You can download the images and description of MCZ and Sergio Leoni stoves and fireplaces in this document by clicking on the following link:
www.ergo-online.it/press/MCZGroup_Pellet_Wood.zip

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