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Wood furnace pellets work with electricity. The pellets are loaded into the bunker, which is either on top or at the bottom of the device. Auger, which is like a long screw, is a motorized device that delivers pellets from the bunker into the burn tank. The speed of the auger determines the temperature of the furnace. Then the burn boiler, which is located in the combustion chamber, is ignited. The pellets are very compressed, so they are dense and low moisture content, creating a hot flame. The burning pot serves as a carb for the furnace, mixing air and fuel to create combustion, which, to put it simply, is the process of burning. The ashes of the burnt pellets are imprinted in the ash, which must be cleaned periodically. Advertising Unlike a standard fireplace, a pellet oven heats the room through convection. As you probably know, hot air rises. This is because as the gas rises in temperature, it becomes lighter and less dense, causing it to rise above heavier cold air. Convection is the transmission of heat that comes from this forced combination of cold and hot air currents. Thus, the convection blower pulls cool air out of the room, passing over the fire in the burn boiler and making the flame hotter, which allows the pellets to burn evenly and efficiently. This heated air is then moved through the heat heater, which is designed to transmit clean air to your home through the blower room. The heat exchanger acts like an oven when it is used in combustion, and it is in the combustion chamber to prevent the outside of the oven from getting hot. The exhaust pipe pushes the gases out of the narrow pipe at the back of the furnace. This pipe can be ventilated into an existing chimney or connected to the outside through a small hole. It is important to note that even if a chimney is not required, the exhaust blower is most effective when the pipe is installed at a vertical angle. The furnace is controlled by a thermostat that controls the number of pellets that the resident feeds to the combustion chamber. More pellets equals more heat. For example, pellets supplied by one pound (0.453 kilograms) per hour produce a gentle flame that will last a long time, but at five pounds (2,267 kilograms) per hour, your fire will blaze source: hometips.com. Next, we'll discuss different types of pellet furnaces. Last winter, Connecticut homeowners Kate Goodrow and Jodie Willis began looking for ways to cut their fuel bills. Goodrow, a civil engineer, and Willis, a veterinarian, spent about \$3,000 a year on fuel oil to heat their ranch homes and produce hot water. In search of a way to trim this number, they decided to follow the example of a neighbor who installed an oven that burns pellets from wood, or, to be precise, sawdust. These clean furnaces form a one-foot dual fuel strategy that is appealing to number numbers personal independence, sustainability and cost savings. Unlike oil and natural gas, wood pellets are usually produced close to where they are used - reducing the energy used in transportation - and they come from renewable resources. Most convincingly, the pellets are made from sawmill waste product - no trees are cut down just for their production. Then there's the value advantage: Oil and natural gas are closely linked to a global system that is sensitive to political disruptions and refineries damaging hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, both of which could lead to price spikes. (An online calculator maintained by Penn State helps homeowners compare the costs of different fuels: energy.cas.psu.edu/costcomparator.html.) Federal tax breaks help make such furnaces more attractive as well. Taxpayers can get a loan of 30 percent, up to \$1,500, to purchase and install 75 percent of an efficient biomass combustion furnace in 2009 or 2010. By leaving the usual system in place, homeowners can hedge their bets - from time to time, fossil fuels may well be cheaper than pellets. What drove our decision was the economy, says Goodrow. He expects the \$6,000 investment in the furnace, including installation and large-scale purchases of bulk fuel, to pay off in less than three years. Part 1. Warm Blower air circulates air from the room through the heat heater and back to the room. 2. Auger Moves wood pellets from the bunker to the fuel chute. 3. Fuel Chute directs the pellets away from the bunker and into the pot of fire. 4. Pellets are energy dense extrusions formed from hardwoods and softwood sawdust. 5. Igniter launches combustion pellets electrically, no matches are required. 6. Fire pot holds about a handful of burning pellets. It is mounted on a fireproof firewall and cast-iron floor. Installation of the 1. Hooded vents are supplied with outdoor combustion air. This prevents the creation of negative pressure in the house (caused by burning) and the risk of putting CO into the living quarters. 2. The exhaust joints are sealed with a high-tech silicone seal. In Hopper, the pellet oven is easier to operate than a classic wood-burning stove, but it's certainly not as loud as a regular oven. Our entire culture is built around providing consumer goods that you can connect and forget, says Dan Freihofer, vice president of operations for PelletSales.com, a pellet supplier. But the pellet oven takes a little more involvement. You have to fill it every day and clean the ashes every few days. An archetypal owner is someone who is not afraid of a small technology - an engineer or someone who likes to tinker. There are two main types of oven: inserts that fit into the fireplace and are self-contained like Lopi Leyden, that Goodrow and Willis bought. This furnace produces 45,100 Btu per hour, which roughly corresponds to the output A residential boiler or stove is enough to heat 2,250 square feet of living space. The homeowner pours the pellets into the bunker and tinkers with the settings to determine how fast the fuel will burn, and thus how much heat it will throw. Some ovens may even be connected to a wall thermostat, allowing you to turn the heat up or down as if it were an oven. When the stove is in operation, the electrically operated auger meters of fuel in the fire pot. Fuel is ignited and hot combustion gases wind their way through a tubular heat exchanger at the top of the burn chamber. The gases pass their heat to the exchanger, and then are stretched out into the street by an exhaust blower. The air from the room is pulled through the heat-measuring room and heated before unloading into the room. Depending on the burn speed, the furnace will run anywhere from a few hours to all day before its bunker needs another fuel load. Each pellet is an energy-intensive sawdust extrusion that measures about 1/4 inch in diameter and 3/4 of an inch in length. The average family consumes 2 to 3 tons per heating season. Last winter, a ton of pellets (50 40-pound bags) cost between \$200 and \$275, meaning they could be found. The pellet industry has received a swaying black eye over the past few seasons in regions where demand outpaces supply. Manufacturers and retailers say they have fixed the problem this year with better manufacturing and logistics methods. Of course, many owners of furnaces began to place orders in the spring. Some groups of owners began combining their orders to buy a whole tractor-trailer load of fuel at the time - lowering the price while ensuring they would pellets as soon as the temperature drops. Supply looks much better this year, Says Freihofer. Supply will exceed demand. To see how these heaters go, I visited Goodrow and Willis to help the dealer install their Leiden oven - and tried not to put them in the way. The process turned out to be simple. First, a two-person crew from Dean's Furnace and Spa, in Plansville, Connecticut, set up an UL-listed hearth pad with a pedestal base that would lift a 400-pound furnace about 7 1/2 inches above the floor. Next, we found the wall studs, and temporarily set the oven in place to decide where to run the vents through the wall without hitting any studs. With the vents determined, we moved the oven and bored the pilot hole as a central marker for the exhaust holes. Then we cut the inside of the wall with a drywall saw. Outside we used reciprocal saws to remove wood siding and shell and fitted the wall thimbles into their holes. This equipment provides a non-healthy surface for the exhaust pipes to pass through. We used The same method for installing fresh air intake air vents that will supply outdoor air for combustion. Then we attached all the outer surfaces of the vents to the siding and shut up Sealant. Back inside, we installed a slab on the hearth site and connected the air vents. Fresh air vents are connected to the bottom of the oven with a flexible corrugated vent, while a hard metal pipe runs from the stove to the exhaust. Finally, we attached a hard wired thermostat that comes with a stove. (For added convenience, wireless remotes thermostats are also available for about \$150.) The installation is done, we hooked up the oven and filled it with a bunker. Auger delivered the pellets to the fire truck, and the automatic ignition lit the fuel. At one point the room glowed warm. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io Dear Vanessa, my brother recently bought oven pellets and swears that it saves him money and heating the entire lower floor of his house, but he also usually does not recognize the error. I'm cold and I can't put up with a cold house, but I want to save money on heating. Can the pellet oven really heat that much of the house and is worth the effort? - Freeze in Frisco, Colo. Dear Freeze, Yes and Yes. Burning wood pellets can replace your electric stove, and provide as much heat as you want or can afford. Although it is less efficient than an electric furnace, it is more efficient than other common heat sources such as oil, natural gas, propane and coal. It was simple. It means there must be something wrong. It can certainly be easy to be green, but it's usually not easy. The equations for what is green tend to become more complicated. Let's add to the calculations other problems with pellets: profitability, pollution and sustainability. (See below for things to consider if you want to buy an oven.) The U.S. Energy Information Administration puts the cost of heating pellets in the range between coal and natural gas, and well below oil, propane or electric. This means that on the basis of BTU per dollar heating pellets is considered cost-effective. The EIA count doesn't seem to include the electrical cost of running oven pellets (they are, after all, electrical devices), averaging \$10 per month. The initial cost of buying and installing the device is high, they require regular maintenance, and the growing demand and reduced supply of pellets increases costs - things to factor in the profitability formula. How long will it take to recoup your investment? It depends on what you buy, how you use it, what it replaces and your local utility rates. No doubt the pellet furnaces offer huge improvements compared to their wood-burning predecessors. They are much cleaner than forested ones, but to a lesser extent than gas furnaces. The amount of particulate matter (think asthma and allergies and other respiratory diseases), carcinogens and carbon monoxide secreted Pellets are part of this for wood burning, even with new EPA-certified wood-burning stoves. In fact, the EPA believes emissions from pellet furnaces are low enough that they are not even subject to certification. Wood pellets are made of compressed sawdust, bark and other lumber residues. They can also be made from corn, soybeans, shells, cherry pits or agricultural waste, and the ovens vary depending on what you want to burn (wood, corn, and multi-fuel ovens are available). Since pellets are made from renewable resources, and can keep some mass from landfills, they are generally considered a good environmental choice. Claims that these biomass pellets are carbon neutral can be a bit misleading though: They may not emit more carbon than they are absorbed during their lifetime, but the carbon used for growth, transportation, packaging and pellet process should be included in the calculation. Keep in mind, too, that the pellets are an electric appliance, so the energy used to drive the oven should be added to the carbon footprint of the heat pellets. Although the pellets are made from renewable resources, there is no guarantee that they will be updated (i.e. replaced). A new tree can be planted for every felled tree, but there is a large gap between a fully grown tree that has already absorbed CO2, and a tree that can be planted and can eventually grow to absorb as much CO2 as possible. And corn ... Don't get me wrong. The way we grow maize in the United States leaves us not with a renewable, carbon-neutral crop, but rather a kind of fossil fuel burps of monocert diabetes. Some of these negatives can be compensated by buying pellets, the ingredients of which occur in sustainable wood and crop production. And, of course, the locals are better. Sound extreme? I didn't even start on fuel versus the food aspect. Even with the environmental costs of transportation, production and packaging, furnace pellets are usually an effective source of heat. And with low environmental costs compared to many other options, they are a legitimate part of the sustainability puzzle. In many ways, as with ethanol and biodiesel, heat pellets are reduced to a supply issue. On a local, final scale, the pellets heat the rows as well as an effective and sustainable option. But (there it is again), we live in a world of dwindling resources, and ever-expanding consumption, where cultures that could be the basis for renewable energy are in competition with our basic needs: food and water. As it stands - in that local and finite scale - heat pellets can work wonders: divert waste from landfills, provide a sufficiently efficient and clean and offer a method of achieving sustainable, independent energy systems. What it can't do is stay resilient on a large scale. Not on an overcrowded planet where we often seem to be tending to monocropping and poisoning ourselves out of existence. There's only so many sawdust to be Shells and cherry pits should be burned, corn and soybeans to be subsidized for pellets. And pellets produced are just one of a growing number of businesses sucking that sawdust. Who should get the first dibs on these waste resources? If it was up to me, it would go to where it has never been waste: to where it started. It will take 100 years to make one inch of soil. When agricultural waste is burned for fuel - adding insult to injury by over-processing, processing and chemical sterilization of land - we will eventually ensure that biomass fuels will not fuel the future. No soil, no trees. No soil, no corn. Or soybeans, cherry pits, olive pits, corn husks, stems... It all comes down to biofuels - whether in the form of pellets or biodiesel, they play an important role in the fight against global warming. Cultivated, manufactured and distributed in balance with the fact that the area can sustainably sacrifice, biofuels are much preferable to their fossil ancestors. Only you can judge if the pellet oven is right for you, but I hope I have helped you make an informed decision. The moral of the story? No source of fuel will pull us out of this predicament, and almost anything that replaces coal and other fossil fuels is a good option. And, most importantly, any source of fuel is resistant only to its consumption. The best alternative fuel is fuel conservation. So, regardless of your heat source, put on some thick, cozy socks and sweater and save, save, save! Keep it green, Vanessa If you decide the pellet oven is right for you, here are a few things to consider: Requirements: The standard requirement for heating is considered 25-30 BTU/h (British thermal units per hour) per square foot - or 5,000 BTU/h for 200 square feet. This is the average, so calculate the amount of space you want to heat, how well it is isolated and your climate (average outside temperature). Power: Pellet furnaces require electricity, and must be connected to an electrical grid, or to a backup generator or battery. You don't want to get caught with the stove running during a power outage (believe me). Cost: There's a wide range for the ovens themselves (the minimum will work you \$1,000 installed, but that's optimistic). You may need a hearth pad. On average, people use three tons of pellets during the winter months, about \$200 per ton. Calculate the cost of annual maintenance as well, since pellet furnaces have many moving parts and vulnerable electronics, plan repairs. Availability: In 2005, there was a widespread shortage of pellets, and waiting lists for several months could get pellets (of course, to it was spring time). I don't know about the current supply problems, but I do know there are about 1 million people using heat pellets in the United States, and demand is growing as energy prices rise. Storage: You will need a dry storage space for the pellets. If you burn corn, you should also make sure that your storage is a bug- and and Space is becoming increasingly important when considering that pellets are cheaper than a ton and lessons from previous shortages have led people to stock up on large quantities. Service: The furnaces are more practical than most heat sources we are used to. Not bad, by any means; just keep in mind that you will need to do a minimum amount of cleaning and maintenance (clean the heat- freezing system, ventilation system, traps and glass; empty the ashes; and, of course, load the bunker). Pellet furnaces are at least as efficient as heating directly from fossil fuels, according to the Energy Information Administration's Heating Fuel Calculator and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Consumer Guidelines. I swear government programs get their funding based on how many words they can fit in a name. BTU (British thermal unit) is used to describe the energy content, in this case, of thermal value, fuel. I read a blog post somewhere (sorry, no link) to a woman who heats up with corn. She gets it from a nearby organic farm that grows non-GMO crops sustainably. It should be as good as it gets. But how many of us have such an option? I live in the city, my HVAC is functional (which makes the pellet ovens financially extravagant), and our winters are relatively short (increasingly so). No heat pellets for me. I did, however, run my machine on biodiesel (how did we get from wood pellet ovens for biodiesel? Most biodiesel comes from virgin crops grown in industrial-agricultural fashion associated with fuel tank (replace pellets for biodiesel, especially as demand goes up and waste becomes rare). The biodiesel I use is made from used cooking oils, collected from local restaurants and establishments, and processed locally. The waste is glycerin (soap!). My version of the perfect pellet scenario. rington/Flickr) rington/Flickr)

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