

# Why is the glass on my stove turning black?



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If the glass in your wood-burning stove or fireplace is rapidly turning black, there are several possible explanations. These are the most common:

## Poor fuel quality

For ideal combustion, the moisture content of your wood should not exceed 15-20%. There's a simple test you can use to quickly determine whether your wood is dry or not:

1. Take a log
2. On one of the cut sides (lengthwise), spread a dab of washing-up liquid or kitchen soap over a diameter of 5-6cm.
3. From the other side of the log, blow inside. If foam forms on the side where you spread the liquid dishwashing liquid, your wood is dry. If nothing happens, it's not dry enough. You can try keeping it inside for 2-3 days before using it.

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## Air does not circulate sufficiently inside the fireplace

An outside air supply is necessary to ensure that your stove operates properly. Modern wood-burning stoves are designed to bring a trickle of air to the front of the glass to keep it as clean as possible. It's important that there's plenty of air when you light a fire. Air is the prerequisite for a clean and complete combustion process, during which the temperature is high enough to burn off the gases and particles released by the wood. If the gas and particles are not burned, soot will form in the flue or black smoke will emanate. This is why you should check whether the smoke coming out of the flue is white or transparent when you light a fire in your wood-burning stove.

Remember to clean the combustion chamber (ash grate) thoroughly with a suitable brush or [ash vacuum cleaner](#), and to empty the ash pan regularly so that the air intake is not blocked by residues.

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## Insufficient draught

The flue is essential to the stove's operation. Remember that even the best stove will not work perfectly if the stove's draught is not sufficient or correct (minimum flue height 3m50). Before a new heating season, the chimney flue and flue gas connector should always be checked for blockages. The chimney sweep should check both the flue and the stove at least once a year. If you have any doubts about the condition of the flue, you should always contact a chimney sweep.

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