

## Mid-Atlantic Masonry Heat, Inc.

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### Break in Fires

Tulikivi recommends having three small fires (break in fires) for new soapstone fireplaces, for the first fire, build a little fire (use 10 – 20 pounds of firewood depending on the unit size) in your Tulikivi fireplace. After the fire has gone out, let the Tulikivi cool down approximately to body temperature (98°). Over the next two fires, you increase consecutively the amount of wood with each fire, again, letting the fireplace cool down between each fire. See chart below for estimated wood usage during the curing process. Construction debris such as 2x4's are ideal for this purpose. If you are using firewood cut from logs it is recommended to cut them into lengths 12-16 inches long and split into pieces approximately 2"-4" in diameter. The first three small fires slowly dries and cures the fireplace. After the third fire your fireplace should be fully cured and ready to burn fireboxes full of wood 1-3 times per day.

Approximate Firewood Weight Per Fire				
Fireplace Weight		First Fire	Second Fire	Third Fire
Small Fireplaces	2,000-3,000lbs	10.lbs	15.lbs	30.lbs
Medium Fireplaces	3,500-5,000lbs	15.lbs	25.lbs	50.lbs
Large Fireplaces	5,500-7,000lbs	20.lbs	35.lbs	70.lbs

For normal burning after the breakin fires, use approximately 1 pound of wood for every 100 pounds of soapstone fireplace per 24 hour period. *(Example; a 4000 pound fireplace can burn one fire using 40 pounds of wood or burn two fires using 20 pounds of wood for each fire).*

### Dry and Split your wood

The [Tulikivi Operating Manual](#) states for optimal efficiency use dry seasoned wood that has been stored in a well ventilated, covered location for a period from 1 to 3 years. Doing this will reduce the moisture content of the wood to 15%-20%. Tulikivi also recommends using wood cut to the proper length for your fireplace and to bring the wood in 24 hours before burning to further reduce the moisture content.

From our experience, we have found that how well fires burns in a Tulikivi fireplace, depends less on how dry your wood or how long wood has been cured, but depends more on how your wood is split, ideally 2"-4" in diameter. Round logs should be split in half. More your wood is split down or smaller the pieces of wood the better your fire will burn.

How do you tell if you are burning wood that is too large? The most obvious way of telling if your wood is too large is if the glass on the firedoor turns black, other tell tale signs are; moisture condensing on the firedoor glass, large charcole pieces left after the fire has gone out, there should be only fine fly ash remaining, you may notice the fireplace not getting as warm as it should. If your fire is burning 3-4 hours your wood is likely too large.