

Choosing and installing a wood pellet stove is not such a difficult process. However, there are important decisions to make and a few rules to apply to ensure that your stove will be to your satisfaction and meet your requirements.

It is vital to look for high quality when choosing your wood pellet stove. All products registered by SEI under the Greener Homes Scheme have met minimum quality requirements in terms of performance (efficiency) and eco-friendliness (low emissions).

We advise that you ask your supplier to recommend an installer as reputable suppliers will generally only deal with experienced and qualified installers.

Please visit www.sei.ie/greenerhomes for lists of pellet stoves suppliers and installers. We highly recommend that you shop around in order to get the best product and the best value for your money.



Questions to ask your supplier and installer

SEI REIO has compiled a list of questions you should ask suppliers and installers before making a purchase. It is in your best interest to make sure you are satisfied that all your questions are answered.

Equipment

- Is the stove on SEI's list of registered products? (Remember, if it is not listed you will not be eligible for a grant under the Greener Homes Scheme).
- Does the stove carry any additional quality labels?
- Is the stove CE marked?
- What is the efficiency of the stove at maximum and minimum heating output?
- What is the noise level from the stove during operation?
- Can the stove modulate (vary) output according to the heat demand?
- What kind of room temperature regulation (thermostat) does the stove have?
- Does the stove have an integral programmer / timer?
- How will the stove interact with other heating systems?
- What kind of safety features does the stove have?
- Does the stove design allow for easy cleaning of the burner area and flue?
- Is the pellet stove going to feed into the central heating system? If yes, how many radiators can it heat? Can it also heat hot water?
- What kind of flame pattern and view does the stove give?
- How will the stove installation affect the Building Energy Rating (BER) of the dwelling (where required)? See <http://www.epbd.ie> for more information.
- Is the stove correctly sized for the space it is intended to heat?
- Will the installation be in compliance with all Building Regulation requirements, e.g. Parts F, J and L.

Location

- Are there any fans present which will interfere with the operation of the stove?
- Can the stove be located to allow sufficient clearance with combustible surfaces and materials?
- Is there a properly wired outlet for electricity near the stove location?
- Is there enough fresh air supply to the stove for safe and efficient combustion? If not, how can outside air be drawn from an appropriate location?
- Is there provision for appropriate access for maintaining and cleaning the stove?

Chimney or flue

- Is there provision for appropriate access to maintain and clean the chimney system?
- Is the minimum clearance between the flue and combustible materials respected?
- Does the existing or proposed flue comply with the stove manufacturer's instructions and with the Irish building regulations?
- Does the flue system recommended take into consideration local factors like altitude, windy conditions, or possible negative pressure within the house itself (e.g. in very airtight houses or due to extract fans)?
- Are the joints and seams of the flue pipes properly sealed to avoid exhaust gas leakage into the room?

Installation and commissioning

- Does the supplier offer delivery, installation, commissioning and after sales service?
- Is the floor protected according to the pellet stove manufacturer's instructions?
- What training and experience do the professionals involved with the installation possess?
- How long will the installation take?
- Who is responsible for making good disruption to walls / ceilings etc. necessary during the installation of the system?
- What are the procedures and tests carried out when commissioning the system?

Operation and maintenance

- Is full documentation, including the operation manual, provided with the stove (in English)?
- Does the stove have automatic ignition fitted as standard?
- What is the pellet storage capacity of the stove and how long can it operate with one refill under normal conditions?
- What kind of wood pellets (quality and size) have to be used with the stove?
- What is the availability and cost of wood pellets in my area?
- What maintenance tasks have to be performed by a professional and how regularly?
- What is the range of annual costs (fuel and maintenance) under average conditions?
- How often do I have to empty the ash pan?
- Does the dealer have spare parts available?

Costs and payment

- Does the quotation cover all the costs associated with the installation of the stove (stove, flue, installation, delivery, floor protection)?
- What are the financing options and payment terms?

After-sales services

- What does the manufacturers' or suppliers' guarantee cover?
- Is an annual service contract available from the supplier?
- How does the dealer provide emergency service work if required?

For further information on renewable energy and energy efficiency, please visit www.sei.ie.

Call 023 42193 or email renewables@reio.ie for a free information pack on how renewable energy can be applied to your house or business.