Oregon’s Uncertified Woodstove Removal Requirements

What you Need to Know When Selling or Buying a Home with an Uncertified Woodstove

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Overview

- History
- What is required
- How to determine if the woodstove is certified
- Woodstove removal and destruction
- Frequently asked questions
History behind the woodstove law

- Senate Bill 102
  - Passed by 2009 Oregon Legislature
  - Protect human health from uncontrolled wood smoke

- Residential wood burning is a significant source of air pollution, including fine particulate and air toxics.

- Uncertified stoves are very 4-7 times more polluting than certified ones.

![Diagram showing particulate emissions and overall efficiency comparison between old, non-certified stove and EPA certified stove.](image)
Why was the woodstove law put in place?

- Fine particulate (or PM$_{2.5}$) in woodstove smoke can be easily inhaled and reach the deepest part of our lungs.
- It is known to cause or contribute to respiratory disease, asthma attacks, heart problems, and premature death.
- Wood smoke also contains toxic organic compounds known to cause cancer.
Why was the woodstove law put in place?

• Safety issue because many old, uncertified stoves were not installed properly and could be a fire hazard.
What is required?

- Requires removal of old, uncertified stove or insert upon home sale

- Includes uncertified stoves in garages, backyard "workshop"
How do I determine if the woodstove is certified?

- Certified stoves have an Oregon DEQ or U.S. EPA certification label
  - Usually affixed on the rear of the stove

A safety label (from U.L. or other safety-listing agency) is not the same as DEQ or EPA certification.
How do I determine if the woodstove is certified?

• In general, any stove built or installed prior to 1986 is going to be an uncertified stove

• Certification is done at time of stove manufacture by an EPA-accredited laboratory
  ▫ Certification cost is ~$10,000-$15,000 per model

• Cannot certify an existing uncertified stove.
  ▫ Certification occurs prior to when the manufacturer puts the stove out for sale on the market.
What does not need to be removed?

- Pellet stove
- Antique stove
- Cookstove
- Masonry heater
- Fireplaces
- Central, indoor wood fired furnaces
What is required?

- Uncertified stove must be destroyed (or rendered inoperable)
  - Can be taken to any metal recycler or landfill
  - Homeowner can also keep stove for decorative purposes only
    - Must be rendered inoperable (take doors and hinges off, punch a hole in the side)

- STOVE CANNOT BE REUSED AS A HEATING DEVICE
  - It is also against the law to sell or give away an uncertified stove
What is required?

- Obtain a receipt showing proof of destruction

- Receipt is not required to be submitted to DEQ. Can be kept with homeowner for their records.
What is required?

- Notify DEQ of removal and destruction
  - Electronic notification (can receive immediate confirmation):
    - http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/woodstoves/heatSmart.htm
Oregon’s Heat Smart Program – Required Removal of Uncertified Woodstove Upon Home Sale

Selling a house with a woodstove?

If you are selling or purchasing a home with a woodstove or fireplace insert, you must ensure the woodstove is certified prior to sale of the home. If it is not certified, the stove must be removed, decommissioned and reported to DEQ.

Examples of Certification Labels

Either an Oregon DEQ or a U.S. EPA certification label on the stove means the stove is emissions certified. A UL safety certification label does not mean the stove is certified.

What devices are not required to be removed?

- Fireplaces
- Pellet stoves
- Antique stoves
- Cook stoves
- Masonry heaters
- Central wood-fired furnaces

Submitting notification to DEQ that you removed an uncertified stove?

Click on the appropriate link below to fill out the electronic form. You don’t have to submit the actual receipt to DEQ—just keep it for your records and for reporting online. Once you’ve completed the online form, you’ll receive immediate confirmation from DEQ and you’re done!

- Home seller or buyer
- Other party/stove remover (e.g., hearth products store, contractor, realtor filling out form for client)

If you cannot submit your information online, please contact the DEQ to obtain a paper reporting form. 503-229-3359.
Who is responsible for removing the stove?

- **The seller is responsible**
  - Stove must be removed prior to close of sale
  - Seller can transfer responsibility to buyer, if both parties agree in writing

- **If the buyer assumes responsibility:**
  - Remove stove within 30 days after the sale closing date
Frequently asked questions

• Are there requirements for who must remove the stove?
  ▫ No – anyone can remove the stove

• If the stove is on the EPA or DEQ certified woodstove list, does that mean it’s certified?
  ▫ No. The lists are guidelines to help determine if you might have a certified stove. Proof of certification is the presence of a certification label (all certified stoves are required to be labeled).

• What is the penalty for not complying?
  ▫ Fines can start at $625.
Contact Information

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Webpage:
http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/burning/woodstoves/heatSmart.htm