

Remember

- Smoke Control Areas are in place to protect our health and improve the air quality of our environment.
- It is illegal to burn fuel that gives off smoke in a Smoke Control Area.
- It is not illegal to buy non-smokeless fuels. It is an offence to buy, sell or deliver fuel to be used in a Smoke Control Area that may cause smoke.
- Authorised 'smokeless' fuels are available to use in Smoke Control Areas. There are also some solid fuel appliances that are approved for burning wood and certain types of coal without giving off smoke.
- The lighting of authorised solid fuel may initially create smoke. Therefore a lighting-up period of 10-20 minutes is allowed where authorised fuels are in use.
- Offences concerned with the Smoke Control Area can lead to a fine of up to £1000.

If you have any queries, eg:

“Do I live in a Smoke Control Area?”

“What type of fuel can I burn?”

or any other issue, you can contact :

**Health & Community Wellbeing,
The Environmental Health Service,
Derry City & Strabane District Council**

Derry Office
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane Office
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

Tel: **028 71 253 253**

Email: **environmentandneighbourhoods@
derrystrabane.com**

Web: **www.derrystrabane.com/airquality**

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This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, mp3, Daisy) and minority languages. For further information please contact 028 71 253 253, textphone 028 71 376 646.
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Smoke Control Areas

- Strabane •
- Castlederg •
- Newtownstewart •

**Smoke from
your chimney
could cost you
a fine of**

£1000

www.derrystrabane.com

Why are there Smoke Control Areas?

- Under the Clean Air Order 1981, parts of Strabane Town, Castlederg and Newtownstewart were declared smoke control areas in 2007.
- These are areas where you are not allowed to emit smoke, other than during lighting a fire, from the chimneys of buildings.
- When fuels such as coal and wood are burnt, the smoke they give off can contain harmful gases and microscopic particles which can cause damaging health effects.
- The people most susceptible to these effects are the young, the elderly and those with existing heart and respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.
- If you allow smoke, other than during lighting a fire, to be emitted from your chimney you are committing an offence for which you can be **fined up to £1000** for each time this happens.
- To find out if your property is in a Smoke Control Area you can **view the maps** for the three smoke control areas on the Derry City & Strabane District Council website: **www.derrystrabane.com/airquality**.

What fuels can I burn?

- It is an offence to burn ordinary coal, wood or turf if you live in a smoke control area.
- If you live in a Smoke Control Area you must only burn '**authorised**' **smokeless fuels**. In such areas burning wood is only 'authorised' if you burn it in an approved exempt appliance. Even when using an approved appliance, you will still be breaking the law if you use wet or unseasoned wood which causes excessive or nuisance smoke.
- It is an offence to sell or deliver an 'unauthorised fuel' for use within a Smoke Control Area unless it is to be burned in an '**exempt**' **appliance**.
- Useful links are available at the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) website: **www.daera-ni.gov.uk**
- These appliances are generally referred to as 'DEFRA Approved' or 'Smoke Exempt' and must be operated at all times in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, which have also been scrutinised during the authorisation process.

Oil Fired Central Heating

- Oil heating can be easily controlled to suit your needs. Become familiar with your heating controls so you only heat your home when required and to a reasonable standard to avoid wasting energy.
- Oil heating will heat water as well as radiators.
- Oil is cheaper when bought in larger quantities.
- You should save for fuel all year round so that it is available when you need it in the winter.
- The **Fuel Stamp Saving Scheme** operates across the district and encourages people to save for the colder months. Further information can be obtained from **Strabane Community Project** on **028 71 883 102**.
- Burning coal and oil means you are paying twice for heating your home, and in the case of coal, just one room in your home.

Natural Gas

- Natural Gas is cleaner and greener than other fossil fuels and can significantly reduce your carbon footprint, as well as improve energy efficiency.