



I don't see any change when I damper my wood burning appliance down? Is the air control broken?

Broken Air Controls

Although broken air controls are typically thought of as the culprit of the above scenario, it has been our experience that air controls break less than half a percent on the wood burning stoves and fireplaces we have sold. Of the hundreds of stoves and fireplaces sold by Friendly Fires, we have replaced or fixed less than 10 air controls. So, what could it be?

Typically, it is the result of either:

- air entering the firebox from areas where it should not enter
- chimney super draft
- improper wood

To understand air controls, most stoves will still experience 'boost air' even when the air control is closed. Once the air control is closed, users should be able to see 'rolling fire' at the top of the firebox.

Air Entering Firebox

Areas to check include:

1. Gasket seal: inspect the gasket seal. If there are visible signs of wear or areas where the door or glass gaskets are not in 100% perfect condition, air may be entering the firebox. Friendly Fires always stocks a wide variety of gaskets.
2. Gasket seal: if the gasket was recently replaced and is in good condition, but you still have a concern, rip a small piece of paper approximately 2" wide, and test the seal of the door gasket on all sides. You should not be able to pull the paper through the gasket seal easily.
3. Ash system: If your wood burning appliance has an ash system below the firebox, ensure that the opening between the ash system and the firebox is properly closed.
4. Known Stove Issues:
 - a. Enviro Inserts: the insert comes with two holes that attaches the insert to the skid. These need to be plugged once the unit is installed:
 - b. Vermont Castings: the ash system access door must be firmly closed for a proper seal.
 - c. HearthStone: the ash system access door must be firmly closed for a proper seal.
 - d. Pacific Energy Summits: have a system called 'everburn' that combined with a strong draft, may allow too much air into the firebox.

Over (super) Draft

Some chimneys experience super-draft.

1. If there is a strong wind, your appliance may be experiencing a temporary strong draft
 2. Ensure the "T" cap is installed (only applicable for wood stoves installed with a stainless steel liner in a masonry chimney)
 3. If new install with long vertical rise - your chimney may be performing "too well"
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Friendly Fires
Fireplaces & BBQs

Air Control Issues

Overly Dry Wood

Most customers experience symptoms where the wood is wet. In some instances, if the wood is too dry, there is no noticeable difference once the air control is shut down. To solve, mix the over-dry wood with properly seasoned wood. Friendly Fires stocks moisture meters that can tell you about the condition of your wood.

