

light my fire

23

We love the romance of a fireplace in winter, but fireplaces and wood-burning heaters can contribute up to 40 per cent of air-particle pollution. Check your heater complies with the EPA standard, it is installed correctly, and you are using it efficiently – closed, slow combustion heaters are best. Ensure that your wood is from a sustainable source. Wood smoke contains pollutants that can be harmful to your health, so use old and dry wood as it burns cleanly and efficiently; don't let your fire smoulder overnight or use it to burn household rubbish. And have your chimney or flue professionally cleaned before each winter for maximum safety and efficiency.

Photo: Corbis Australia

your biggest fan

25



Ceiling fans are an attractive, quiet and inexpensive option for your cooling and heating needs. They work by circulating cool or warm air around the room and run at about one cent per hour, compared with 12 cents for evaporative cooling and up to 60 cents per hour for refrigerated air-conditioning. And the energy saving is considerable too. Place containers of ice under ceiling fans in summer to create a cool breeze.

The Brisbane Sustainable House, courtesy of
Environmental Protection Agency Queensland