# Home is Where the Hearth Is by Eric Bernard

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The heat and warmth from the fireplace draws the inhabitants of a home towards it as surely as a beacon of light attracts a weary traveler. After a day out in the cold winter days, the thought of a toasted room and the warmth of the fire from a woodburning stove are comforting. While woodburning stoves and fireplaces are slowly being replaced by radiators and other modern appliances, the presence of a fireplace in a home brings back nostalgic memories to the older folks and memories of a bygone era to the younger generation.

## Understanding The Woodburning Stove

A woodburing stove uses wood fuel or biomass fuel derived from wood to generate heat. The stove is connected to a chimney. The stove is a closed appliance made of solid heavy duty metal. There are some important points to remember before installing a woodburning stove at your home. The home must be adequately insulated so that the heat generated by the stove does not leak out of the home. There is great wastage of wood which is a natural resource if your insulation is not adequate. The efficiency of the woodburning stoves also depend on whether fresh wood or seasoned wood is used. Fresh wood has greater moisture content and thus will not generate sufficient heat.

## Modern Heating Appliances

Modern heating appliances nowadays aim at heating the entire building with central heating systems. The controls for the entire building will be at one place. The central heating system tries to provide uniform heat to the entire building. There is also the advantage of not having to waste time searching for wood or oil to burn the stoves. All it takes is the click of a button and your room is warmed up in no time at all. However rising electricity bills has led to restricted use of this source of heat. While efficiency of heating is important, the cost has also now started to matter. Moreover radiators are intrusive and do not blend into the dÃ©cor of the room. Since electricity is a scarce resource and the costs are high, people are depending more and more on woodburning stoves to tide them over during the winter months.

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