



Advice and guidance on using Wood Pellets

Wood Pellets Systems are simple and reliable when set up correctly. However these systems are still new within the UK, and many boiler manufacturers, installers, suppliers and users of pellets are developing their experience and expertise.

We thought it would be useful if we pulled together a list of some of the things we have witnessed that have caused problems or difficulties when getting used to handling this material. This is not meant to be a comprehensive guide, but hopefully might give you a few hints that will help you install and run your systems properly.

4. Wood Pellet types

Wood Pellets come from two distinct sources:

Reclaimed Pellets

- Are made from reclaimed timber such as pallets and builders waste.
- Are usually cheaper, as the material does not need drying.
- The materials used must be carefully graded and sorted to avoid contamination.
- If not, there is a risk of contamination from metals, plastics and preservatives.
- These may in turn cause blockages or corrosion within your boiler, unless your boiler is specifically designed to handle it. If not, you may invalidate the warranty on your boiler by using the wrong fuel. You should check this carefully with your boiler installer before using this fuel.
- The Environment Agency regards reclaimed timber as wood waste, and you will normally require Environmental Permits to burn it, and your installation may need to comply with the Waste Incineration Directive.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/ps005_2077240.pdf

Virgin Wood Pellets

- Are made from wood chips generated as by-product from sawmills.
- Are dried using other wood residues such as bark and branches.
- Should conform to CEN/TS 14961–A1 Quality Standards. -Less than 10% moisture, 0.7% ash.
- Dust content should be <2% on vehicle, <5% in customer silo (provided silo is set up correctly)
- Pellets may be 6mm or 8mm – ideally your system can handle either.
- Density is usually about 650kg/m³

Billington Biofuels currently only source Virgin Wood Pellets from UK manufacturing plants. Many customers initially look for fuel from their closest supplier, but it is our experience to date that you experience fewer problems when installing and running a new boiler if you buy at the highest quality possible initially.

Billington Biofuels has a strict Quality Control system to inspect and test all pellets we receive. We double-screen and metal detect all deliveries out to customers to ensure the quality standards are met.

Billington Biofuels do not currently offer to collect the wood-ash. Most boilers produce very small quantities indeed (>0.5%), and most customers actually choose to use it themselves onto flower-beds etc.