Lighting Instructions

Ci10 / Ci20

Contura

Lighting in the right way

It is important that the correct amount of wood is used, especially when lighting. If you are lighting the fire for the first time you should use a set of scales to see how much 3 kg kindling is.
Also check what the normal and maximum weights look like.

Always open the hatch carefully and slowly to prevent blow back because of the changing pressure in the stove.
The function of the insert differs depending on the draft conditions in the chimney. Achieving the correct setting for the combustion air damper usually takes a few attempts.
In order to obtain a good bed of embers, there should always be a thin layer of ash and charred pieces in the fire box.

LIGHTING FOR THE FIRST TIME

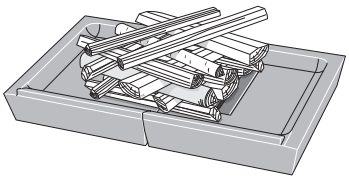
The hearth insulation in your new insert consists of Thermotte®, a stone material with excellent insulating properties. It contains a certain amount of water that evaporates during the first lighting. Whilst this happens, combustion may seem to be slow, and soot may build up on the insulation panels. Do not compensate for the slow combustion by adding to the fire as this risks cracking the panels if they are put under "stress" before they have cured. When the panels regain their white colour they can be considered to have cured. The insert will emit an odour of excess paint and oil coating that may remain on the panels. The odour will disappear completely after several fires.

Correctly sized wood

Note that if too little kindling is used when lighting, or if the wood is too thickly cut, the fire box will not reach the correct operating temperature. Incorrect lighting can lead to poor combustion with heavy sooting and may result in the fire going out when the door is shut.

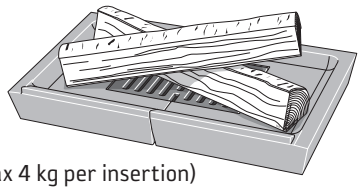
Kindling:

Finely chopped wood
Length: 25-35 cm
Diameter: 3–5 cm
Weight per lighting: 3.0 kg
(approx. 10-12 finely chopped pieces)



Feeding Wood:

Chopped wood
Length: 25-50 cm
Diameter: 7-10 cm
Normal weight: 2.5 kg/hour
Max amount: 4 kg/hour
(max 3 pieces per insertion. Max 4 kg per insertion)



Lighting

If the house has mechanical ventilation, open a window near to the fireplace prior to lighting. Leave the window
open for a few minutes until the fire has caught properly.

1. Open the control for the combustion air fully.
2. Insert paper or firelighters, and about 3 kg of thinly chopped wood into the centre of the firebox. Stack the wood crosswise.
3. Light the fire.
4. Close the door, but leave it open 4-5 cm (lighting position)
5. When the fire has caught fully after approx 5-10 minutes, close the hatch completely.
6. The first load of logs should not be put on until the start up fire has become a glowing bed of embers.

Adding wood

1. Open the hatch a few centimetres and allow the vacuum in the firebox to equalise for a few seconds before opening the hatch fully.
2. Add 2-3 logs of a combined weight of approx 2-3 kg. Place one log diagonally and one or two logs on top. Then close the door.
3. The combustion damper must be completely open for 3-5 minutes until the logs turn black and catch fire.
   If slower combustion is then required, the supply of combustion air can be reduced. The conditions for controlling combustion vary depending on the temperature in the stove and the draft in the chimney.
4. A nominal energy output of 9 kW is achieved when the combustion air damper is 40% open and 3 logs weighing about 2.5 kg are added once per hour.
5. The lowest output of 6 kW is obtained when the combustion air damper is 20% open and two logs are lit. In this operating position it is important that the combustion air damper is fully open for the first 3-5 minutes so that the wood has time to burn properly before the supply of combustion air is reduced. A condition for regulating the output is a thick bed of embers and high temperature in the firebox. When the fire has died down to embers more wood should be added.

QUICK LIGHTING

It is important that the wood catches fire quickly. Quick lighting is achieved by opening the combustion air damper fully or by leaving the door ajar for a moment. Pyre lighting produces a lot of smoke and can cause quick gas ignition in the worst instance resulting in hearth damage.

Choosing fuel

All types of wood, such as birch, beech, oak, elm, ash, conifers and fruit trees can be used as fuel in the insert. Different types of trees have different densities, the greater the density of the wood the greater the energy value. Oak, beech and birch have the highest density.

The wood's moisture content

Fresh wood is about 50 per cent water. Some of the water circulates freely between the fibres and some of the water is bound in the cells. The wood must always be dried so that the free water evaporates. The timber is ready for use when the moisture content has fallen below 20 %.
If wood with a higher moisture content is lit, a large part of the energy content of the wood is used boiling off the water. If the wood is damp, the combustion is also poor, layers of soot and tar build up in the chimney and could, at worst, lead to a chimney fire.
In addition, it causes the glass of the insert to soot and may cause discomfort to those living nearby.

To ensure thoroughly dry wood, the wood should be cut in the winter and stored, well aired, under a roof.
Never cover the wood pile with a tarpaulin to the ground. The tarpaulin will then act as a sealed cover and the wood will be prevented from drying. Always store a small amount of wood indoors for several days before use, so that the surface moisture has time to evaporate.

Do NOT burn the following

Under no circumstances whatsoever may fossil fuels, pressure impregnated wood, painted or glued wood, chipboard, plastic or colour brochures be used as fuel. All these materials can create hydrochloric acid and heavy metals that are damaging both to the environment and the hearth. Hydrochloric acid can also attack the steel in the chimney or the mortar in a stone built chimney. Also avoid using bark, woodchips or other extremely finely chopped wood except for lighting. Fuel of this type causes flashover resulting in too high output.

Candles

Do not use old candle stubs as fuel. Melted wax runs down into the stove's damper system and makes the stove unusable. Repairs for this are very expensive.

FIREBOX MAINTENANCE

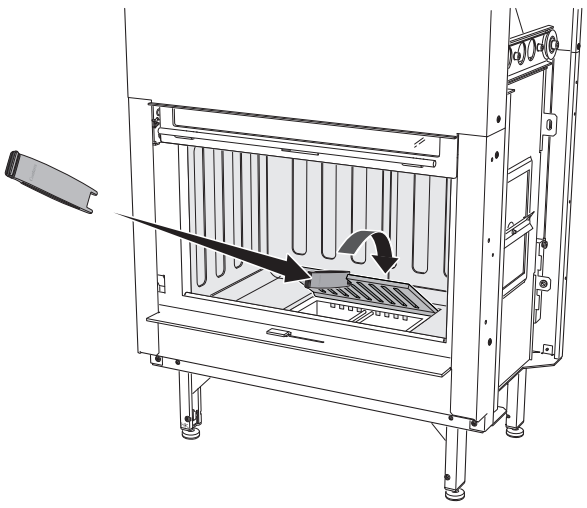
The glass may be come sooty with use, even if the insert is lit with dry wood with a moisture content of 15 – 20%. Regular cleaning with dry paper is usually sufficient to keep it clean. If the soot has been on the glass for a long time, dip the damp paper into the soft, none abrasive ashes and wipe clean. Ash and water will remove the soot. This is the only cleaning method we recommend. Detergents and special soot removes/fireplace glass cleaner are available from supermarkets, DIY shops and local stove dealer, we do not recommend these. Never use cleaning agents that contain abrasives or that have a corrosive effect on printed or painted glass. These may damage the glass/paintwork. Do not use cleaning products containing sodium hydroxide because of their corrosive effect on sealing strips.

When the ash level in the ash box has reached the square holes, empty the ash box. When emptying the ash box, ensure that there are no glowing embers. Lift the grate and fold it back (see the illustration). The ash-pan can then be lifted straight up. The ash must be stored in a fireproof container with a lid for at least one week before being disposed of. The grate and other cast iron components can be cleaned using a wirebrush.
It is important from a combustion point of view to check gaskets, as worn gaskets hinder combustion when the fireplace draws "extra air".

Painted parts of the insert can be cleaned using a damp cloth, with a small amount of detergent, if necessary. Damage to painted parts, e.g. small scratches, can be rectified with Contura touch-up paint. Contact your dealer.

As there is a constant large flow of air through the insert's surround, cold room air is drawn in and hot air released, dust can collect in the surround's air intakes. Therefore, these should be regularly cleaned.

Parts located near the actual seat of the fire may require replacing. Examples of such parts are the firebox panels and grate. The service life of these parts depends on how much and how the insert is used.



NOT TOO BIG FIRES

The firebox in your insert is relatively large. This is so that boiler wood can be burned. It is, however, prohibited to load it full of wood. Adding more logs than recommended leads to flashover with oxygen deficiency, which results in: sooted glass, too high an energy output that can damage the inserts/surround, thick smoke and high flue gas temperatures that can damage the chimney. Recommended amount of wood for normal lighting is 2.5 kg/hour and the maximum permitted amount of wood is 4 kg/hour, max 3 kg of wood per insertion and covers lighting with a maximum of 3 pieces of chopped birchwood per insertion or other broad leaf wood with a moisture content of about 18%. When inserting one or two large pieces of wood, the weight of the wood can be increased to 4 kg without the risk of the combustion rate exceeding 4 kg/hour.
When lighting with the same wood amounts as above but with, for example, conifer wood, higher fireplace temperatures are achieved. The service life of the fireplace can be cut short if the fire is left at full combustion for long periods, and if the maximum permitted amount of wood is exceeded, parts in the stove can become damaged thus annulling the warranty.

Possible causes of malfunctions and how to rectify them

Poor draft in the insert after new installation

- Check the dimensions of the chimney so that they correspond to the ones stated in the installation instructions.
- Check that there is nothing in the chimney to restrict the smoke and that no nearby buildings or trees affect the winds around the chimney.

It is difficult to light the fire and the fire dies after a short time

- The wood may not be dry enough, check the wood.
- Another reason is that there may be negative pressure in the house, for example when using a kitchen extractor fan or other mechanical ventilation.

  Open a window near the hearth before lighting the fire.

  Also try lighting some newspaper and holding it up inside the fire box to get the draft going.
- The combustion air damper may not be open.
- The smoke outlet of the hearth may be blocked with soot, which can occur after sweeping.

  Lift the smoke baffle out and check.
- Finally, go through the lighting instructions again.

  Perhaps the amount of kindling was too small and therefore the base embers were too weak and cold to light the next load of wood.

Abnormal amounts of soot form on the glass

There is always a certain amount of soot on the glass and this is added to with each lighting. Soot on the glass is caused by three things:

- The wood is damp, which causes poor combustion and generates a lot of smoke as a result.
- Too low temperature in the firebox, which causes incomplete combustion and poor draft in the chimney.
- When the Thermotte panels are new, they contain moisture, which has a damping effect on combustion, this problem resolves itself through lighting.

  Check the moisture content of the wood, ensure that you have good base embers and go through the lighting instructions one more time.

Smoke odour around the hearth for periods

This can occur when wind blows down the chimney and most often occurs when the wind is from a particular direction. Another cause can be that if the hatch is opened before the chimney has become hot and the necessary draft achieved.

Painted parts have become discoloured

If painted parts have discoloured it is due to excessive temperature in the firebox. The reason for the excessive temperature can be that the maximum amount of wood has been used, inappropriate fuel has been used (for example building waste, large quantities of finely chopped off cuts). The warranty does not cover damage of this type. If a problem occurs that you cannot rectify yourself, contact the dealer or a chimney sweep.
We hope that these lighting tips give you enjoyable, economical and problem free use of your Contura insert.

SWEEPING

Sweeping the chimney ducts and chimney connections should be carried out by a chimney sweep. Sweep the Insert by scraping and/or brushing. A soot vacuum cleaner is most appropriate however. To access the convection stop's inner parts, the smoke baffle and diffuser must be removed. Refer to the installation instructions. If a chimney fire occurs or is suspected, the combustion damper and the door must be closed. If necessary, contact the fire brigade to extinguish it. The chimney must always be inspected by a chimney sweep after a chimney fire.

WARNING

- During operation, the surfaces of the insert become very hot and can cause burn injury if touched.
- Be aware of the strong heat radiated through the hatch glass.
- Placing flammable material closer than the safe distance indicated may cause a fire.
- Pyre lighting can cause quick gas ignition with the risk of damage to property and personal injury.

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