

Hearthwarmer FAQ's

August, 2010

How does it work? The Hearthwarmer replaces the existing bar grate in a masonry fireplace. When set in place in the firebox, you simply plug the blower into the nearest electrical outlet and light your fire. The blower will automatically turn itself on when your Hearthwarmer warms up, and circulates relatively cool room air through the hollow tubing of the heat exchanger, where it heats up and is blown into the room.

Why the Hearthwarmer vs. a full wood burning insert box? A full wood burning insert box greatly changes the look of the consumer's fireplace view, as well as the room it's in. With a much-restricted view of the fire and a large amount of black sheet metal surrounding that view, it can be a very disruptive look for the consumer. Add in a typical installed price tag of \$3500 or more, and a full insert can be a tough sell. The Hearthwarmer is more elegant looking than the bar grate it replaces in the firebox; the consumer can keep their own masonry doors (or buy new ones), and still have a great view of the fire. Add to that a heating capacity of up to 40,000 Btu's/hr, so the consumer gets great heat without driving themselves out of the room. AND the Hearthwarmer retails for just \$649, a fraction of the full insert price.

Can I burn in a power outage? Yes, but only if the fireplace doors are wide open. Although it's always recommended that the fan be running while a fire is burning, the Hearthwarmer can be burned in a power outage for emergency situations.

What type of fireplace will this work in? The Hearthwarmer is designed and manufactured to work in an existing masonry woodburning firebox. The minimum firebox opening that will work is: 32" front width; 19-1/2" back width; 21-1/2" depth. The Hearthwarmer may also be used in a large prefabricated wood burning fireplace, provided the consumer either removes the glass doors (to accommodate the front grille of the Hearthwarmer) or contacts Design Specialties for a zero-clearance fireplace glass door that works with the Hearthwarmer.

How many Btu's/Hr of heat can I expect? Depending on the size of the fire and type of wood burned, the Hearthwarmer can deliver up to 40,000 Btu's/Hr of warmth. This warmth can be regulated by how the fire is built and with the blower's rheostat. It is recommended that masonry doors are used in conjunction with the Hearthwarmer for maximum efficiency when the fire is not burning.

Is there a left-handed blower version available? Yes, in our original HW-2822 model (HW-2822LH).

Can the consumer keep their existing masonry doors and still install the Hearthwarmer? Yes, provided those doors can be adjusted upwards approximately 1-3/8" to accommodate the front grille of the Hearthwarmer. The doors will then sit directly on that front grille.

Why is the bar grate built separately from the heat exchange tubes? The bar grate is a separate piece that the logs will be burning on. This takes the weight of the logs off the tubes, extending their longevity. It also allows for repeat sales of bar grates for dealers over time.

Is the blower noisy? The 100 cfm blower will produce sound commensurate with the air it moves. It can be turned down as the consumer's room is heated to satisfaction.

How does the consumer remove ash from the firebox? The ash can be shoveled out from under the heat tubes as needed.

Is this product "green"? Absolutely! Not only is the consumer burning a renewable energy source (wood), but the use of the Hearthwarmer turns a very inefficient masonry fireplace into a heat source. Adding glass doors improves that efficiency. We even manufacture the "Teddy Mold" out of recycled material. And since the Hearthwarmer is primarily made of steel, most of the unit can be completely recycled at the end of its life.

Is this product made in America? With the exception of the electrical components, the Hearthwarmer is hand-crafted in Minnesota, USA.

Is this product efficient? Yes. It turns an extremely inefficient masonry fireplace (which typically robs a home of heat as it burns) into a heat-producing fireplace, merely by burning the fire on it versus the original bar grate.

Why is this product recommended to be used with glass doors? Glass doors help to radiate heat into the room as well as slow down the heat loss that would otherwise go up the chimney flue.

What comes standard with the Hearthwarmer? The standard Hearthwarmer kit (HW-II) consists of the heat exchanger (steel tubing), bar grate, 37" wide front decorative grille, blower box, 100 cfm blower, fan temp sensor switch, blower speed control, and the "Teddy-Mold" protective cover.

What if the front grille is too large or small for my firebox opening? The Hearthwarmer ships standard with a 37" decorative front grille, which can be trimmed to fit the firebox opening (and/or masonry doors) with a hacksaw, and has an optional 52" front grille (trimmable) for larger firebox openings.

Do you have decorative fronts available to cover the grille and match fireplace door finishes? At this time the front grille is only available in black. The very low profile of the front (1-3/8") makes it unobtrusive.