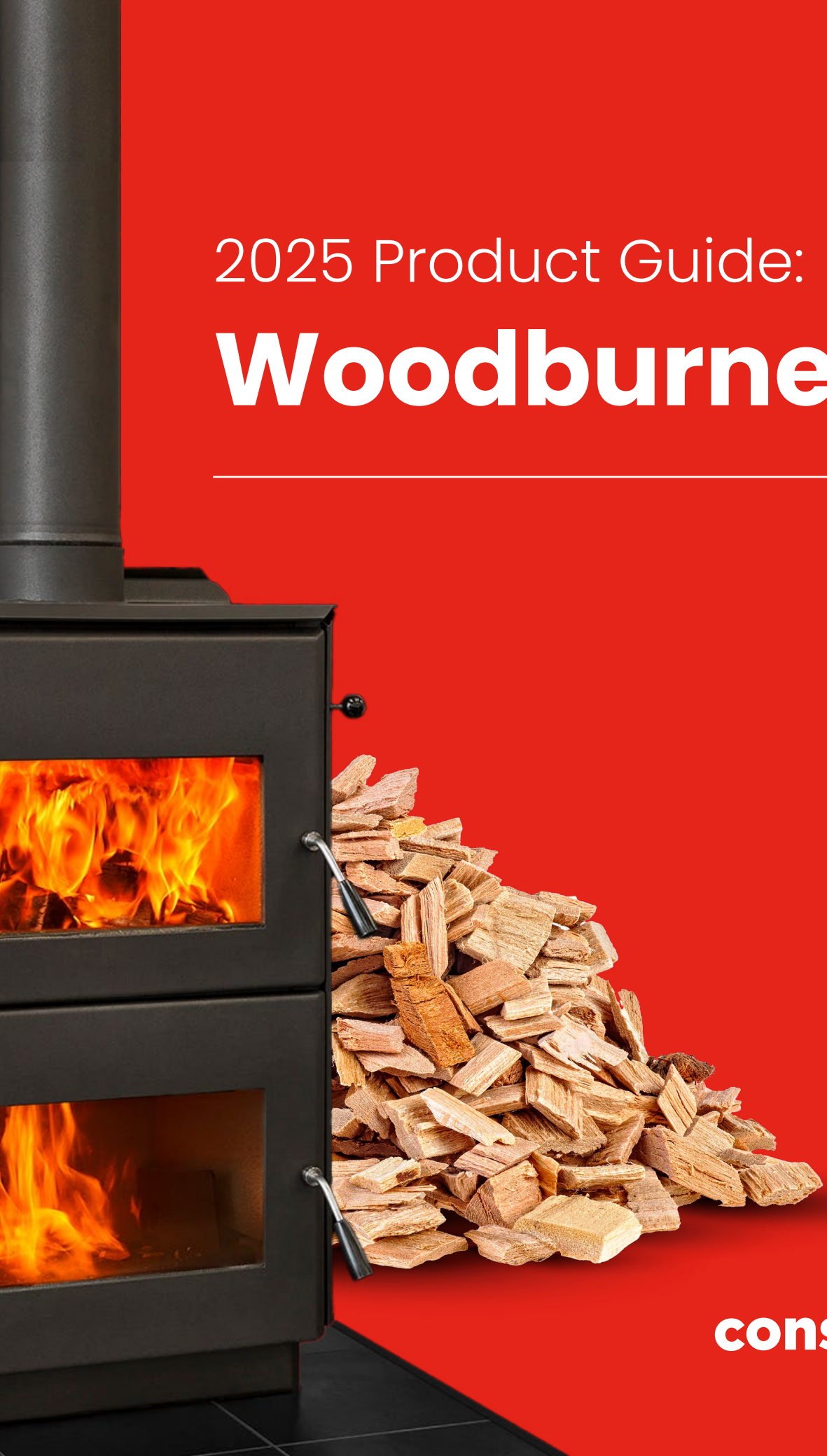
2025 Product Guide:

Woodburners



consumer.

TOP WOODBURNERS

	Brand	Model	Recommended Retail Price	Emissions performance score	Efficiency score	Heat output	Type	Wetback	Overall score
✓	**Tropicair**	Duo	$5,490	98	98	15.1kW	Freestanding	Optional	**98**
✓	**Tropicair**	Duo Wet	$5,950	90	91	12kW	Freestanding	Yes	**91**
✓	**Pyro Fires**	Classic ULEB	$3,999	77	82	4kW	Freestanding	No	**80**
✓	**Tiba**	T-Art	$20,500	62	92	10.5kW	Freestanding	No	**80**
✓	**Tiba**	T-Sky	$21,800	62	92	10.5kW	Freestanding	No	**80**
✓	**Woodsman**	Kanaku	$2,199	78	81	8.1kW	Freestanding	No	**80**
✓	**Tropicair**	Rua	$4,650	86	66	8.5kW	Freestanding	No	**74**
✓	**Ethos**	Galaxy FS100	$4,999	72	73	10kW	Freestanding	No	**73**
✓	**Ethos**	Genesis FS100	$4,999	72	73	10kW	Freestanding	No	**73**
✓	**Ethos**	Phoenix FS101	$5,299	72	73	10kW	Freestanding	No	**73**
✓	**Masport**	R5000 (Leg)	$3,159	79	69	13.4kW	Freestanding	Optional	**73**
✓	**Masport**	R5000 (Pedestal with Ash Box)	$3,269	79	69	13.4kW	Freestanding	Optional	**73**
✓	**Woodsman**	Brunner MKII	$2,449	81	68	15.7kW	Freestanding	Optional	**73**
✓	**Woodsman**	Tasman MKII	$2,999	81	68	15.7kW	Freestanding	Optional	**73**
✓	**Maxen**	Cargill 350	$3,200	82	64	16kW	Freestanding	Yes	**71**
✓	**Woodsman**	Tarras MKIII	$3,449	87	60	16.9kW	Freestanding	Optional	**71**
✓	**Metro**	Ambie Plus	$3,999	84	61	14kW	Freestanding	Optional	**70**
	RAIS	Bionic Fire	$11,280	59	75	3.7kW	Freestanding	No	**69**
	RAIS	Bionic Fire Studio	$11,680	59	75	3.7kW	Freestanding	No	**69**
	Warmington	Lewis	$4,999	62	73	10.1kW	Freestanding	Optional	**69**

GUIDE TO OUR DATA ✓ **Consumer Recommends.** Prices are based on an average at the time of printing. All scores are out of 100. The overall score combines all categories for this product. For full results and commentary, **visit consumer.org.nz/products/woodburners.**

buying guide

▸ Woodburners

Keep toasty warm during winter with the right woodburner. Your local council might have rules that restrict what type of woodburner you can install. Yet, if you choose correctly, you'll be beating the winter blues for years to come.

▸ Choosing a woodburner

It can feel daunting when you first look at our woodburner database. Use these tips to narrow your choices and identify your ideal model.

▸ Pollution and emissions

● National Environmental Standards clean-air check

If you live on a property smaller than 2 ha, then you need to install a woodburner that meets National Environmental Standards (NES) for emissions and efficiency, also known as clean-air or urban models.

Most woodburners in our database are NES-compliant, meaning they have emissions of 1.5g/kg or lower and an efficiency of at least 65%. But, depending on where you live, NES compliance might not be enough. Some parts of the Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Canterbury or Central Otago can be much stricter about emissions.

Models with high efficiency give more bang for your buck with fuel, extracting more useful heat from each log. Choosing a model with low emissions means less risk of your chimney producing smoke that causes respiratory issues and stinks up your street.

Our emissions and efficiency scores simplify the measurements, making it easier to compare models. They give an indication of the relative performance of each woodburner – a score above 70% indicates above-average performance.

● Ultra-low-emission burners

Ultra-low-emission burners (ULEBs) meet stringent standards and are designed to be installed in clean-air zones where all other fires are prohibited. They're also highly efficient.

● Rural models

Woodburners that are allowed on sections larger than 2 ha are also available. They generally offer better overnight-burn capability than urban models, making them ideal for farmers who still want their fire to be blasting when they wake up early in the morning. The trade-offs are higher emissions and lower efficiency.

▸ Fit check

● Will it be powerful enough?

Working out the heating capacity (kW) required for your home is critical. Woodburners lack the fine control of a heat pump – too small and your burner won't keep your home at a healthy temperature; too large and you risk turning your home into an oven.

As a rough guide, models under 10kW are best suited for smaller, well-insulated spaces, while large and/or poorly insulated spaces need more than 10kW. For a more accurate gauge on the ideal output for the area you want to heat, use our online calculator.

● Insert or freestanding?

If you have an existing open fireplace, you can opt for a woodburner that fits inside the old fire cavity. Freestanding models are the best option for newer households and can now be placed closer to walls, with smaller clearances than older freestanding models.

● Radiant or convector?

Radiant fires offer an intense, toasty heating effect, ideal if you've got high ceilings or poor insulation. Convector fires produce a softer, ambient heat through a cyclic convection effect. They heat more evenly but are better for homes with good insulation and low ceilings.

If you're not sure what's best, many models are "radiant and convection", combining both heating modes.

● Price

Woodburners range in price from $1,000 to more than $5,000. You should also factor in the cost of installation and building consents (usually several hundred dollars more) when buying one. ULEBs tend to be more expensive to buy, but their greater efficiency means you'll spend less on firewood in the long term.

● Aesthetics

Looks can be important, and some woodburners have much larger windows than others, which can enhance your living area's ambience. Others have a variety of coloured panels. Some ULEBs even have a USB charging port – just remember to NOT put your devices on the woodburner while charging. Insert woodburners often have varying fascias, mimicking the detailing of old fireplaces.

▸ How woodburners work

● It's a two-stage process!

First, if the wood is hot enough, the combustible creosotes and resins will evaporate from the timber and be burnt as gases (if these gases are not burnt completely, the result is smoke).

The evaporation of the gases turns the wood to charcoal, which then burns easily and cleanly and produces most of the heat.

To burn as cleanly as possible, the fire needs to be as hot as possible. It also needs the right amount of air to support the combustion. Too much air cools the fire, and smoke is produced. Not enough air has the same effect.

Modern woodburners burn efficiently because their fireboxes are lined with firebrick material, making for a hotter fire. The air is carefully admitted, giving the most complete combustion possible. The resulting efficiency (conversion of the fuel energy into heat in the room) is around 65%.

Contrast this with the traditional open fire, which admits far too much air, cooling the fire and giving an efficiency of 15 to 20%. Some fireplaces even have negative efficiency – they draw cool air into the house, warm it and send it up the chimney!

Head to consumer.org.nz for more information of woodburners