# Wood Burning Stoves in Thatch Properties

# Safe or Dangerous?

**Don't be Sorry,
be Safe!**

**THATCH FIRE
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**Thatch Fire Prevention Ltd (TFP)** who as the name suggests specialize in protecting thatch properties from fire has put together some safety advice relating to the use of wood burning stoves in thatched properties.

Multi-fuel appliances, such as Wood Burning Stoves are certainly gaining in popularity and may well be one of the safest devices around.  However, with thatched properties these can be disastrous if good operating practices are not followed. Taking good care and adhering to certain precautions is essential.

There are some safety tips that should be followed to ensure any potential threat is reduced and the device is able to do its job efficiently with a minimal risk.

Below are a few key pointers that should be considered.

1.      Multi-fuel appliances operate at a higher temperature than conventional fires and heating appliances.
2.      **Always** seek the advice of a properly qualified chimney engineer. We recommend HETAS be contacted before any work is undertaken.
3.      Maintain adequate cooling periods between periods of heating.
4.      Avoid if at all possible fitting a single skin flexible steel liner - whilst easiest to install, the flexibility can result in sides of the liner touching the interior brickwork of the chimney causing heat-spots. Corrosive tar build-up has also been attributed to some models.
5.      Regular maintenance and cleaning of flues and liners is essential.
6.      Ensuring flue liners are of an appropriate type and in good repair.
7.      Keeping the appliance clean.
8.      Keeping the flue clean.
9.      Only use approved and legitimate materials for burning.
10.     If burning wood, only burn seasoned wood.
11.     Never let the temperature and flames get out of control.
12.     Regularly monitor the flue gas temperature.
13.     Never leave an appliance unattended when in use.

Despite all these pointers the only true way to eliminate the risk of fire caused by heat transfer is through the use of a recognized chimney monitoring system such as the **"Phoenix"** system. This system can remotely monitored 24/7 365 days a year and will act as an early warning of any overheating of the chimney to thatch interface enabling the homeowner time to shut down the cause of the heat preventing fire conditions from ever occurring.

So in answer to the question "Wood burning stoves in thatch properties– Safe or Dangerous?", the answer has to be, if the advice given is followed and a recognized chimney monitoring system is installed they can be  "as safe as houses". Failure to heed the advice given, and not considering a recognized chimney monitoring system then these super-efficient appliances become a serious threat of real danger of fire.

# Chimney Monitors – How to Choose

When choosing a chimney monitor system thought must be given to which type of system should be installed. There are two types of system:

Probe Systems

Probe systems are configured as a probe that will push through the thatch until the tip of the probe makes contact with the chimney. The probe will detect the heat of the brick at point of contact and will monitor that point. The probe system has been developed for thatched properties and is not recognized within the fire and security industry. Probe systems are DIY fit, or indeed several thatchers fit the system for their clients. The system can be remotely monitored in limited capacity.

Advantages:          Low Cost

Disadvantages:       Due to the limited area of detection they can be considered a little "hit and miss", they also have low remote monitoring capabilities, heat detection is generally within only 1cm²

Linear Heat Detection Cable Systems

Linear Heat Detection systems are configured as a detection cable that is installed between the chimney and the thatch and can provide thorough monitoring of this area from as little as 50cm to well over 20m as required, the same cable can run on multiple sides of a chimney and indeed multiple chimneys.

The cable joins to a control panel that is mains powered with a battery backup. The equipment components are fully certified to the appropriate BS standards. These systems should be fitted by TFP installers only and can be remotely monitored either by an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) or speech dialler.

Phoenix Linear Heat Detection System

Thatch Fire Prevention's Phoenix System is a Linear Heat Detection system and comes with all of the points above but with these unique additional benefits.

1. Supports other devices such as Carbon Monoxide, Smoke & Intrusion detectors
2. Constant supervised monitoring of devices (the system)
3. Integral telephone line monitoring for off-site communication (if required)
4. Can be remotely monitored 24/7 365 days a year
5. Recognized by a number of insurance companies
6. 3 year Parts and Labour warranty (system rental only)
7. Flexible monthly payment schemes (system rental only)
8. Installation company is a corporate member of Guild of Master Craftsmen & an affiliate member of National Society of Master Thatchers
9. Can be purchased outright , if required

For further information on Thatch Fire Prevention please visit www.thacthfireprevention.co.uk alternatively contact Brian Davison on **0845 519 5150** or email info@thatchfireprevention.co.uk

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