Osburn matrix wood stove insert

Photo: northerntool.comCentrmente, you were visiting friends, and as the night got colder outside, you were cozy indoors, mesmerized by the warmth and glow of their wood-burning stove. Let's get him!, you exclaimed to your family. Fascinated as you were by the stove, your partner and kids were even more so. A wood stove; what a good idea! But is that really a good idea? As with many other things related to the house, the answer depends. Before you go any further, be sure to do your homework. The pros and cons of heating with a wood stoveIn areas where wood is reliable available cheaply, wood heating can save money on a gas or oil system. It is never truer than for those who collect their own firewood. Of course, it's a lot of work to drop trees, I've seen them in logs, and divide those trunks into long pieces up to the stove. There are techniques and best practices here that could lead the newbies several seasons to master. You have to be realistic about your skills and tolerance for heavy work. It may be time to call a free and unremitted repair estimate from authorized HVAC technicians near you. + Also apart from the amount of work involved, heating the house with a wood stove requires a real commitment. Every morning, you have to start a new fire. In the absence of a backup heating system, there must always be someone at home to cure the fire, to prevent the plumbing pipes from congexing. There are good reasons why we moved beyond the heat of wood a long time ago. For many people who love a modern lifestyle, heating with a wood stove would be a monumental drawback. Of course, unlike fossil fuels, wood is a renewable resource. For some, this is reason enough to seriously think about switching from a traditional oil or gas-powered system. And it would be a mistake not to mention that there is something deeply satisfying, at the primordial level, about the heat of wood. It offers a connection with the earth and human history, which simply cannot be combined with a system controlled by a thermostat on the wall. Photo: energy.govThe art and science of heat dispersionThe HeatA wood heating system presents many challenges. One that continually frustrates many, even veteran keepers of wood-burning stoves, is the art and science of dispersing the heat that the stove produces. One method is to use a wood-burning fan (example of a view on Amazon), which is placed above the stove. This type of fan works very differently from the fans used to create a more comfortable environment on dogs' vacation days. The increase in heat causes the fan blades to spin and, as they do, the fan pushes the heat outwards into the room. Another option is a plug-in blower (see sample on Amazon). Placed under or next to the stove, but not too close, the blower works with electricity and removes heat from the unit. In some houses heated by a wood stove, there are multiple fans running simultaneously in different rooms, each strategically positioned to maximize heat flow. Sometimes these are fans; sometimes they are small fans mounted at the corners of the doors. While a wood-burning stove can be a viable sole heating solution for some homes in some parts of the country, more commonly it serves as a valuable companion to an existing gas or oil-powered system. But there is a third option, one that gives the average homeowner a compelling reason to consider the wood stove. When most of us hear the word fireplace, we imagine an open hearth in the living room or a stone fireplace that smells smoke in the evening. These decorative fireplaces are appreciated not so much for their heat production as for their aesthetic value. The problem is that they are so inefficient; in the same way that it would make an open window, a decorative fireplace quickly loses heated air (air you paid to heat) outside the house. A wood-burning stove offers more or less the same advantage, something beautiful to look at, without seriously compromising the overall energy efficiency of your home. So, if you're looking to improve your existing fireplace, or if you've always wanted your home to have a fireplace, a wood-burning stove might be the best solution. It all depends on what you want to get from the wood stove and what you are willing to put in it. It may be time to call a free and unremitted repair estimate from authorized HVAC technicians near you. + There are two different types of standard wood pellet stoves: free-standing stoves and insert. If you have an existing fireplace, you can buy an insert that fits into the hearth and vents on the fireplace. If not, you can buy an independent unit with your own exhaust pipe. Pellet stoves come in different sizes, styles and colors, tailored to meet the specific needs of your home. While there are many different models on the market with all kinds of bells and whistles, there are some key features that differentiate one wooden pellet stove from another. The first is where the tripod is. In the upper feeding models, pellets are loaded into the screw from the top of the stove, and pellets go down a pipe into the fire. This design minimizes the chances of the fire burning to the tremor, but it is also more likely to be sned with ash. For this reason, it requires high-quality pellets that are low ash. However, top-feed stoves have the advantage of better heating efficiency because the pellets remain in the combustion box until they are completely burned. Lower feeding hoes provide pellets horizontally, from behind or next to the fire. This design allows you to use standard quality pellets because the horizontal movement intrinsically moves the ash away from the combustion area. This helps keep the air intakes open and requires less cleaning than the combustion box. However, bottom-feed models may not be that efficient. Wood pellet stoves are available with different levels of heat production to accommodate most room sizes. These levels are measured in Btu, or British thermal units, which is the standard classification unit used in the heating and cooling industries. Options range from 8,000 to 8,000 90,000 Btu, but most models range from 40,000 to 60,000 Btu. Another option of the stove is manual or automatic ignition. Manual ignition requires a liquid start material or gel lit with a flame, and the process is similar to lighting a fire in a wood-burning fireplace. Stoves with automatic ignitions have start buttons, so when you press the button, feed the pellets in the pot and heat the self-lighter. In our next section, we will weigh the benefits compared to the disadvantages of pellet stoves. There are many realizations and models of pellet stoves, so it might be overwhelming to try to choose the best one for your home. Before buying the stove, make sure the pellets are readily available in your area to avoid having to pay shipping costs. Consider the size of the room where you want to install it. To keep those tootsies warm, a room needs an average of 5,000 Btu from the stove for 200 square feet of space [source: Consumer Reports]. If you get a stove that is too big, you will end up burning pellets cheaply to avoid overheating, which is not only a waste of fuel, but also a great cause of pollution. So make sure you do the math before committing to a particular model. Buy the stove only from an authorized retailer, especially if you're shopping online. If the retailer does not have the stamp of approval, the manufacturer's warranty may be void. Look for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) label indicating that your stove has passed all inspections. Also check to make sure there is a label indicating the overall efficiency range and heat output in Btu. High-quality wood pellet stoves typically have an overall efficiency range of 75 to 90%. Wood pellet stoves are safe only to sit on certain materials. Be sure to check with your retailer if your floors are OK or if you need to purchase a different flooring material to put under the stove. If you want to be able to turn on the stove and leave for the day, make sure you have them with a big tripod. And if you live in a cold area where power outages are likely to occur, consider getting a stove with a battery backup. If you like the appearance of fire, look for a stove with a good flame pattern and a large eyeglass. Some models also have ceramic trunks to give you the look of a traditional fireplace. Finishes include enamel, tiles, and marble, and if you're feeling particularly stylish, you can even take one with 24-carat gold finishes. For more information on keeping warm on a budget, I'm going to go down to the links on the following page. Related HowStuffWorks Pellet stovesConsumer reports Bradford, Stacey L. Should you buy a pellet stove? Smartmoney.com September 2005. buyer's work to pellet and wood stoves. Consumer Reports Blog, January 2008.Darling, David. Pellet stoves. The Encyclopaedics of Alternative and Sustainable Sustainable Energy John. Considering a wood-burning pellet stove? Do your homework first. Mother Earth News, December/January 2006. Kevin. Wood pellet stoves. Cool Tools, October 2004. pellets. A guide for consumers to pellet stoves. Woodpelletstoves.netSlattery, Ellen. The low-down on wood pellet stoves. Green Daily, January 2008. David. Guide to the purchase of pellet stoves. . wood and pellets. Consumer guide to energy efficiency and renewable energy. 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