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Using Wood Stoves Safely

of the proper height and correct capacity for the stove. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Place the stove on an approved stove board to protect floorboards or rugs from heat and sparks. At the beginning of each season, inspect the chimney connections and flues. Look for cracked flue liners and broken or missing bricks. Bird nests and other foreign materials should be removed. Creosote, highly combustible tar deposits from smoke from wet or unseasoned wood, can build up in the chimney. "Using uncured wood, not building fires hot enough to keep creosote from building up on the chimney walls, and not keeping the chimney and flue clean are ways in which wood stove systems can be misused and abused," Purschwitz said. "This results in creosote buildup that can result in a bad chimney fire." A periodic chimney cleaning with a stiff wire chimney cleaning brush is essential.

Firewood with a moisture content of higher than 20 percent will create a lot of smoke, increasing the potential for creosote buildup. Use firewood that has been split and stacked in the open

over the whole summer. Hardwoods are preferred, as pine smoke can leave more of the sticky resin. Control creosote by maintaining a briskly burning fire from well-seasoned, dry wood with a flue temperature greater than 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

The irony behind some new high-efficiency stoves is, because they push more heat into the home, the flue temperature is often not as high as with older models. This can create a better environment for creosote buildup, so such units need more frequent inspections.

Never burn anything other than wood in a wood stove or fireplace. Paper or pine boughs can float out of the chimney and have the potential to ignite the roof. Avoid burning coal, charcoal or other fuels in an apparatus designed for wood. This is not the place to burn garbage since dyes, inks and plastics can emit airborne toxins when burned. Also, don't use fence posts or any wood that may have been treated with preservatives, as they can release dangerous chemicals as well. And don't think about getting rid of Christmas wrapping paper in a stove or fireplace. The paper may ignite suddenly, causing

a flash fire. Any metallic materials in wrapping paper also could release toxins when burned.

Never use kerosene or gasoline to start a fire in a fireplace or stove, as these substances may explode and cause a serious injury. After the fire has burned out, dispose of the ashes safely. "Ashes should be removed by placing them into a metal container with a lid and keeping the container on a non-combustible floor until they are cool and can be disposed of," Purschwitz said.

There are a few other simple steps to take to insure safe use of wood-burning stoves. These are not the places to dry clothing, so do not hang fabrics on or near the appliance. And warn children that the stove is extremely hot and not to be touched or played near. When leaving the house, make sure the fire is completely out.

With a few precautions and some common sense, a wood stove or fireplace can turn a chilly house into a cozy retreat for whiling away winter's blustery presence.

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Wishing Well®

3	4	5	8	4	3	7	4	7	5	8	3	8
E	S	L	D	U	X	Y	C	O	O	U	U	T
2	4	3	2	4	5	3	5	3	6	8	3	2
T	C	D	A	E	V	E	E	C	L	I	O	K
6	3	8	5	3	5	7	6	4	2	5	3	7
I	N	E	E	F	N	U	F	S	E	D	I	A
3	7	3	2	8	7	2	6	4	8	7	4	5
D	R	E	F	S	E	I	E	S	R	W	H	U
6	2	6	8	3	2	3	4	6	4	8	5	7
I	R	S	E	N	M	C	A	G	S	D	R	O
8	4	6	7	3	7	2	5	2	8	6	5	4
E	T	O	R	E	T	S	E	T	F	O	S	E
2	8	7	4	7	4	8	6	4	8	2	8	2
A	I	H	N	Y	E	N	D	D	E	N	D	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: U equals B

L PCXXIPG FIC OLDNM ESKK MNG
XGHPV LV ENSHDG IR S HIUGHF
MNG EIOOSVZGH-LV-MNLGR.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

KD BUX DHZBZPUCD RDUCS
GVBDRUX, OMC Z RVMOC ZW
KD'HH DNDA DHZBZPUCD CUQDG.
— AVODAC U. SDZPHDZP

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Keeping Firewood Pests Outside

Most insects in firewood won't harm people or their homes, but insects emerging from firewood can concern homeowners and put a damper on the pleasure from a nice, crackling fire. Homeowners can keep these pests out in the cold by handling the wood properly.

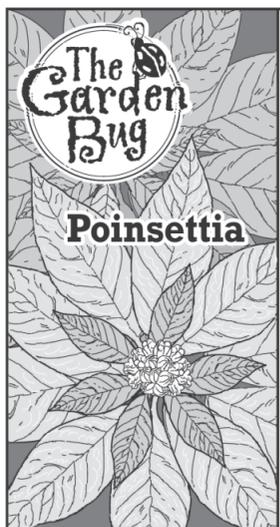
Some pests such as termites, wood-boring beetles and carpenter ants tunnel into firewood and feed within the logs. Others simply hide or overwinter underneath the bark. These include centipedes, spiders, scorpions, wood cockroaches, ground beetles, sowbugs and pillbugs. The only harm these hibernators typically

cause is annoyance as they crawl or fly around the house upon emerging within a few days after the logs are brought indoors.

UK Extension Professor Michael F. Potter gave these tips to keep firewood insects out in the cold. Store firewood outdoors away from the house and off the ground. Stacking logs off the ground increases air circulation for drying and helps prevent moisture problems. One way is to stack firewood on poles suspended between concrete blocks or on old pallets. Burn older wood first to reduce the length of time insects have to become established in the logs. Before bringing

firewood inside, shake or knock logs together to dislodge insects clinging to the bark. Check the bottom of log carriers because insects often crawl into them when logs are brought indoors. Bring only enough firewood indoors to be used immediately or within a few hours. Pests emerge from firewood kept indoors for an extended period of time. This wood also can become a nesting site for rodents. Lastly, use a broom or vacuum cleaner to eliminate the occasional insect emerging from firewood.

For more information, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557.



The plant called "Flor de la Noche Buena" grows in the wild as a shrub from Mexico down to South America, covering the hills with its bright red foliage. Dr. Joel Poinsett, a United States minister to Mexico in the early 1800s, was visiting an area south of Mexico City and noticed this plant's showy mid-winter color. Cuttings of it were sent to a nursery in the United States, and by 1836 the plant was widely known as the "poinsettia" and sold as a Christmas houseplant. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.sundaygardener.net, wikipedia.org

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Mesh Bird Feeder
Recently I purchased a No-No Bronze Tray Birdfeeder (Amazon.com), and it's terrific. I filled it with a black oil seed mix, and it has become a very popular feeder in my backyard. I'm looking forward to seeing it filled with American goldfinches. That will be so cool.

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com
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Puzzle Answers

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Puzzles4Kids

- Answer
- LESSER S REELS
 - BENSON N BONES
 - HOARSE O HARES
 - NEWEST W TEENS
 - FATHER F EARTH
 - CARHOP A PORCH
 - TALKER K LATER
 - PRESTO E SPORT
 - DASHES S SHADE

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

S A P S
O A
C E D A R
S
S D E F A C E
P I E R C E L U
D E L U T E
L O W
E N

Even Exchange answers

- Banker, Barker
- Nancy, Nanny
- Peace, Peach
- Learn, Yearn
- Firmer, Farmer
- Draft, Drift
- Whist, Wrist
- Hearth, Hearty
- Corset, Cornet
- Spoon, Swoon

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	H	O	U	C	B	S	A	M	O	K		
H	A	N	G	H	O	E	S	A	G	E		
O	R	C	A	A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y	
R	E	E	N	T	R	Y	S	I	T	E	S	
				D	O	M	B	A	G			
N	O	W	A	Y	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	
A	B	A		F	O	X		A	Y	E		
B	I	G	O	T	R	Y	Y	E	M	E	N	
				C	O	O	D	O	N			
D	E	B	U	G		P	O	U	L	T	R	Y
I	D	O	L	A	T	R	Y	A	R	I	A	
A	G	R	A		W	O	E		C	A	L	L
L	E	E	R		O	W	N		E	P	E	E

Puzzle Answers

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Answers

P	E	R	I	S	H	U	G	O	N
E	E	M	O	S	W	N	N	S	O
V	C	O	M	E	A	D	I	S	T
E	C	N	A	T	N	E	P	E	R
R	Y	O	U	Y	T	R	E	N	A
Y	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	W	N
O	L	O	R	D	N	T	K	O	Y
N	H	T	I	W	G	A	P	L	O
E	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	S	N
I	N	S	T	E	A	D	D	B	E

the commander-in-chief.
person in charge of a robbery
I suppose you might call the
answer
CryptoQuip

— Robert A. Heinlein
We'll ever eliminate taxes.
somebody, but I doubt if
We may eliminate death
answer
CryptoQuote

Bible Word Search on Page 7

Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

Here are some more autoantonyms:

apparent, argue, custom, downhill, lease, left, moot, over, overlook, oversight, parallel, pit, rent, replace, scan, scatter, screen, shelled, spare, strike, temper, unqualified, weather, windup

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 7

Letter Box

Solution

I	N	T	E	A	V	P	L	O
E	V	P	O	L	N	A	T	I
A	O	L	P	I	T	N	V	E
N	A	I	V	E	P	L	O	T
V	T	E	L	O	A	I	N	P
L	P	O	N	T	I	E	A	V
O	E	N	T	P	L	V	I	A
T	I	V	A	N	E	O	P	L
P	L	A	I	V	O	T	E	N

Answer

8	7	2	5	4	9	1	6	3
5	4	3	1	6	8	2	7	9
6	9	1	2	7	3	4	8	5
7	5	9	4	8	1	3	2	6
4	2	6	3	9	7	8	5	1
3	1	8	6	5	2	9	4	7
9	8	4	7	1	6	5	3	2
2	6	5	9	3	4	7	1	8
1	3	7	8	2	5	6	9	4

Bible Trivia Answers

ANSWERS (1 New; 2 21; 3) David; (4) 1 Corinthians 13; (6) Nabul; (7) Matthew 5:9-13/Luke 11:2-4

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in bookstores and online.