



Product Bulletin

Pellet Heater fuel consumption and pellet length

Introduction

Modern pellet heaters have automatic feed control with fixed feed rate settings. This makes a heater easy to use but does take away our ability to fine tune the pellet feed rate to account for pellet fuel length differences that occur. This product bulletin will explain what is happening in your heater and how to deal with it.

Wood Pellet Length

From season to season, batch to batch or brand to brand, it's very likely that the pellets you buy could be shorter or longer in length on average. This is very normal. There are several variables that determine the length of a pellet during manufacturing and any one of them could be different from brand to brand or season to season. **How does this effect burn?** Longer pellets will feed less fuel into the fire with the rotations of the auger than shorter pellets. If everything else in the pellet heater stays the same, and the only difference in the fuel is pellet length, shorter pellets will provide more fuel to the fire than longer pellets resulting in more heat output. Longer pellets will provide less fuel and therefore less heat.

Consumption Specifications

The fuel consumption rate for Pellet Heaters is usually stated as a minimum and a maximum. These limits are based on an average. A heater may claim a minimum of 600 grams per hour on low and 1.8 kgs on high. In reality these feed rates may be more or less depending on the pellet length. Pellet heaters are designed to be reliable and not go out on the lowest setting. If the minimum feed rate was set too low the heater could go out un-expectantly if the pellet length was longer than the average.

Heat Output

The heat produced is directly related to the amount of fuel consumed. The faster fuel is consumed the hotter the fire and the warmer your house will be. Conversely, less fuel, less heat and lower cost to operate. Due to the ease of starting and stopping a modern pellet heater, it is more economical to turn the heater off when in bed or when the house is unoccupied.

Conclusion

Using the correct heat setting and or thermostat setting will maintain your desired comfort level by replacing the heat being lost by your home. If you are unable to reach the desired comfort level on the highest heat setting then you will require additional heating or reduce the heat being lost (better insulation, reduce draughts etc). If your home is too hot on the lowest setting then turn the heater off manually or via an automatic thermostat or contact Pellet Fires Tasmania Customer Service for more information and assistance.