



## *AES Technical Bulletin*

### Black Soot (combustion by-products) buildup

Black Soot can combine with moisture from the cool venting to form a layer of soot on the inside of the venting or on the outside of your home. In extreme cases of incomplete combustion combined with cold venting this can produce a glass-like substance. When there is a build up of hardened combustion byproducts in the stove it can usually be attributed to a few factors.

**1. Improper air adjustment:**

- Turn the manual draft control open slightly to ensure appropriate fuel level in firepot.

**2. Improper fuel, wet fuel (over 15%) or dirty fuel:**

- Dry fuel to 14 % or less; 10%-12% is ideal, make sure that fuel has been cleaned and is not old or crumbly.

**3. Installation of the stove (venting and fresh air intake):**

- Check with your local dealer to assure that your venting is properly installed. Balancing the home to provide adequate fresh air will allow the appliance to operate and burn clean. It is important that you have this checked when installing a solid fuel appliance.

**4. Possible exhaust/draft blower failure:**

- Contact your local dealer to have a service technician determine if the exhaust/draft blower is faulty and needs replacing.

**5. Improper maintenance:**

- If you are having trouble learning how to operate the unit, contact your local dealer for instruction and read your owners manual.

**6. Clean outs not being closed completely:**

- If the clean out plates are not in the closed position the unit will burn dirty.

**7. The ash pan door needs to be locked in place after emptying:**

- If the door is left open improper air circulation will occur and the unit will burn dirty.

**8. Top door not sealing, gaskets leaking:**

- Check to make sure that all gaskets are sealed. Perform the paper test to assure a tight seal.

If this problem persists contact your local service technician for help.