

From: Homelab Support
Sent: Thursday, 30 September 2021 4:20 PM
To: VEU (ESC) <veu@esc.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Decommissioning wood-fired room heaters

Hello, this is my response to consultation on wood fired heaters

There are two types

- A. Standalone - with flue running through the ceiling and roof to the outside
- B. Built in - filling in the fireplace and either
 1. using the chimney stack or
 2. with a flue inside chimney (similar to faux gas heaters)

Decommissioning

In place - doesn't seem to be a way of making sure its rendered permanently unusable and left in place. Welding the door shut comes to mind but its not really an option we would consider

So it would have to be removal and we have two more options

Partial - removing only whats necessary up to roof space, patching plaster.

Full - removing entire flue, patching plaster and roof

Partial - not future proof, too much risk of disturbing the seal between the flue and the roof material
Cutting the flue just above the ceiling leaves length of flue acting like a pendulum and any movement is bad for the roof seal.

Cutting it just below the roof creates reverse pendulum effect - the part above the roof can move (ie with wind pressure)

So the installer could fix it somehow to stop any movement, but the installer actions to cut the flue could also disturb the seal without him even knowing it

So I would vote for full removal and repair

Type A

Remove the heater and the flue. Patch the ceiling hole with plaster.

If roof tiles, replace with new (with luck the customer will have one or two spare)

If roof sheets, replace roof sheet with the hole or use roof repair kit - but should be done by licensed roofer

Type B

No ceiling or roof to patch, but the removal leaves the chimney open for drafts so I would require to seal the chimney

Which could be claimed under activity 15 weather sealing but I wouldn't allow balloons - not very reliable

Hope it helps,
Best regards
Jack/Homelab