

Woodstove Uncovered: An Alluring Trap

Mechanism of Injury:

Woodstoves are a very popular method of heating. Toddlers find the glass fronts enticing, and will place their hands on the glass, which can reach very high temperatures. Older children can also trip onto these stoves.

Data:

In the six years from 1997 to 2002, 1633 children were treated for burns at the Royal Children's Hospital.

- 1% of all burns were from woodstoves
- Average age: 12 months
- Male : Female = 2:1
- All were supervised by an adult
- Area of body most affected: Hands
- 18% required skin grafting
- 45% required long term scar management

Prevention Message:

- Supervision alone is not enough
- Some woodstoves have insulated parts and are "touch-safe"
- If not "touch-safe", a guard should be used so children cannot gain access



PREVENTION



Woodstove with guard

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