**Common Questions and Answers about Pressed Paper Bricks:**

**What is a paper brick made of?**

Our paper bricks are made of shredded papers and water compressed in a press into brick like shapes for burning in woodstoves, campfires, fireplaces etc.

**Should glass doors on the fireplace be left open or closed while burning pressed paper bricks?**

Pressed paper bricks require combustion air to burn properly. Always follow manufacturer’s instructions. Unless the fireplace manufacturer’s instructions indicate that fireplace can be operated with the glass doors closed, leave fireplace class doors open while a paper brick is burning.

Glass doors can be closed after the paper brick is no longer burning to keep warm air in the house. However, the fireplace damper should be left open until the ashes remaining from the fire are cool.

**Is it necessary to use a fireplace screen when burning paper logs?**

A wire, mesh fireplace screen is an important safety precaution that should always be used whether you are burning a pressed paper brick or firewood.

**Can you burn wood with a pressed paper brick in a fireplace?**

Some sources say adding wood to a pressed paper fire is **not recommended**. As when you add other materials with the paper brick it can change the characteristics of the burn. For example, pressed paper bricks are meant to burn one at a time with a controlled burn rate that burns the external surface area of the brick slowly exposing more internal fuel as the brick burns. Adding wood to a burning paper brick can cause the brick to break apart resulting in a sudden increased burn rate or flare up. If a flare-up like this occurs, flames can consume your fireplace creating more heat and smoke than your chimney is designed to exhaust; resulting in unwanted smoke potentially pouring out the front of your fireplace. Paper bricks also contain twice the BTU energy content per pound of firewood, so burning paper bricks with wood could create excessive heat that exceeds the specifications of your fireplace. Because of this and similar potential safety hazards, adding other materials to a pressed paper brick fire in a fireplace is **not recommended.**

However in a woodstove or campfire paper bricks are effective fire starters, and can be burned with wood or alone if wood is not readily on hand. They create a quick and intense heat to jumpstart heating the house.

**Can I burn more than one pressed paper brick at a time?**

Burning more than one brick at a time could result in too large or too hot a fire for your fireplace. Burn paper bricks one at a time!

**How long does a brick burn for?**

They can burn for about an hour or so.

**Is it okay to burn pressed paper bricks on andirons?**

Pressed paper bricks should be burned on an adequate supporting grate. Paper bricks tend to soften while burning and need support to assure maximum burn time. Burning paper bricks on grates with parallel bar spacing greater than three inches does not provide adequate support and may result in brick breakage, flare-ups and/or reduced burn time.

**Is it okay to use pokers or tongs when tending pressed paper brick?**

Unlike firewood, pressed paper bricks are designed to burn in a controlled manner and do not require tending. Tongs or pokers can cause a paper brick to break apart and expose more surface area to the air – increasing the burn rate and resulting in a shorter fire.

**Is it okay to cook over the fire of a pressed paper brick?**

Pressed paper bricks are not designed nor intended for use as a cooking fuel. Generally the types of solid fuel used for cooking produce coals, which emanate heat over a period of time, and cooking is conducted by exposing the food directly to the heat generated by the coals. Our pressed paper bricks only burn with flames and do not generate adequate coals for cooking. Cooking over a paper brick fire is also not recommended because of the toxins that may be released into the food through the burning process.

**In an emergency, how can I extinguish the bricks?**

Carefully douse fire with water or sand or use a dry chemical fire extinguisher. If burning in a campfire never leave the fire unattended, as it may get out of control causing extensive fire damage.