



Athlone Stove User Guide  
July 2014



MADE IN BRITAIN

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# Athlone Stove User Guide

Arada Ltd

July 2014

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Villager stove!

More than 30 years of experience has been put into the development of your stove to ensure ultimate performance and years of trouble free use and enjoyment. Every detail of your stove has been carefully designed and engineered which is why we are so confident in the reliability of our products.

Your Villager stove is built to the highest standard of craftsmanship using the best materials and the most modern equipment available. It is a highly efficient and sophisticated piece of machinery and when properly installed and operated it should provide a lifetime of heating satisfaction.

Should you have any questions about your stove which are not covered by this manual, please contact the Arada retailer in your area, call our technical support department on 44 (0)1297 35998 or visit our website [www.aradastoves.com](http://www.aradastoves.com) which offers a wealth of information on how to care for, and get the best from your stove.

Please ensure that you read these instructions in full and understand them before operating your stove.

Arada has a policy of continuous product development and therefore we reserve the right to amend specifications without prior notice. Due to printing cycles, items or options may be described before they are generally available or after they have ceased. Please check with your retailer or dealer if you are unsure about any aspect of your stove, its installation or correct use.

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# 1 Warnings

Pure Petroleum coke or Bituminous house coal must not be burned in this appliance. The use of these fuels will invalidate the appliance guarantee.

Arada recommends the use of HETAS approved smokeless fuels which have been deemed suitable for use on closed appliances, including multi fuel stoves. If in doubt, contact The Solid Fuel Association, telephone: 0845 601 4406 / 01773 835400 or visit [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk).

It is a legal requirement that the installation of all new or replacement, wood or solid fuel heating appliances obtain building control approval from your local authority. This can be done by using a qualified heating engineer, affiliated to a government approved competent persons scheme such as operated by HETAS. If in doubt, contact HETAS Limited, telephone: 0845 634 5626 or visit [www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk).

A fireguard conforming to BS 8423:2002 should be used in the presence of children or elderly people. Do not use aerosol sprays or any other flammable materials near the appliance when in use.

Arada Ltd will not be responsible for any consequential or incidental loss or injury however caused.

Any manufacturer's instructions must not be taken as overriding statutory requirements.

Any further warnings in this document will be marked out in a box such as this one. Ignoring the warnings could lead to damage/injury to persons and/or property.

## 1.1 Health and Safety

Please consult health and safety guidelines for advice on handling heavy and/or large items.

## 2 Advice on fuel types

### 2.1 Wood

As a natural and renewable fuel, wood is the first choice for burning, however burning wood requires a little effort and planning.

Any type of wood is suitable (though hardwood is preferable) provided it is well seasoned and has a moisture content below 20%. This usually implies that the timber has been suitably stored to allow moisture to evaporate for at least 9 months in the case of soft wood, and at least 24 months in the case of hard wood. We recommend that for general burning, wood should be split into logs of no more than 100mm (4") diameter.

If, when burning wood, you see signs of sticky tar inside the appliance or chimney, your wood is 'green' or too wet and requires further seasoning. An electronic moisture meter can be obtained in order to determine the moisture content of your wood fuel.

Paper will burn successfully. Burn dry paper only or chimney damage will occur.

Wet wood must not be used as this will greatly contribute to the creation of tar and creosote which may, in extreme cases, run down the chimney in liquid form. This will seriously damage both the chimney and the appliance and increase the risk of a chimney fire.

## **2.2 Solid fuel**

If you have chosen a multi/solid fuel stove this will have a cast iron riddling grate which allows you to burn a wider variety of fuel types. It is important to ensure that your fuel is intended for use in a stove, modern stoves are designed for use with current cleaner burning and smokeless fuels.

Arada recommends the use of HETAS approved smokeless fuels which have been deemed suitable for use on closed appliances including multi fuel stoves, these are:

- Anthracite
- Ancit™
- Coalite  
Newflame™
- Homefire™
- Homefire  
Ecoal™
- Homefire  
Coals™
- Maxibrite™
- Phurnacite™
- Pureheat™
- Supertherm™
- Sunbrite™
- Taybrite™

For additional advice on fuels, please refer to The Solid Fuel Association ([www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)) or HETAS ([www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)).

## **3 Before using your stove**

Villager stoves are designed to be operated with the fire door(s) closed at all times, apart from refuelling (when alight) or cleaning (when cold).

Never leave the appliance unattended for an extended length of time with the door(s) open.

Prior to lighting the stove for the first time, please check with the installer that:

- Installation and all building work is complete. (Refer to the installation guide.)

- The chimney is sound, has been swept and is free from obstruction.
- Building Regulations and any local by-laws have been followed during installation.
- All firebox liner panels and throat plate are in place.
- The chimney draw has been checked and is within specification (between 0.1mb to 0.2mb, or 10-20 pascals). This ensures your stove will operate predictably and efficiently.
- A Carbon Monoxide detector is correctly installed in the same room as the appliance.

Ensure that you have read and understood these instructions before lighting the fire.

Our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/aradastoves](http://www.youtube.com/aradastoves) features a collection of videos designed to help you get the best from your Villager stove.

Always wear suitable protective fire gloves when refuelling your stove, such as the Arada glove supplied with your stove.

We recommend that you light a small fire for the first few days of use to cure the paint and allow the castings to relax. During this process the paint surface may smoke briefly, and you smell a slight odour for an hour or so. The vapour is harmless and should not be confused with fume emissions, however, it is advisable to keep the area well ventilated until the vapour disperses.

You may hear your stove 'click' or 'tick' whilst it heats up or cools down. This is completely normal and is produced by the expansion and contraction of the steel components in your stove when its temperature changes.



## 4 Air inlet controls

### 4.1 Location and operation of the controls

Your stove has two air inlet controls. These are located either on the stove body or the stove door.

The primary air inlet provides under draught to the base of the fire chamber and the airwash system (secondary air) provides overdraught and airwash jets. *The exact controls may differ from those illustrated in this manual but will work in the same way.*

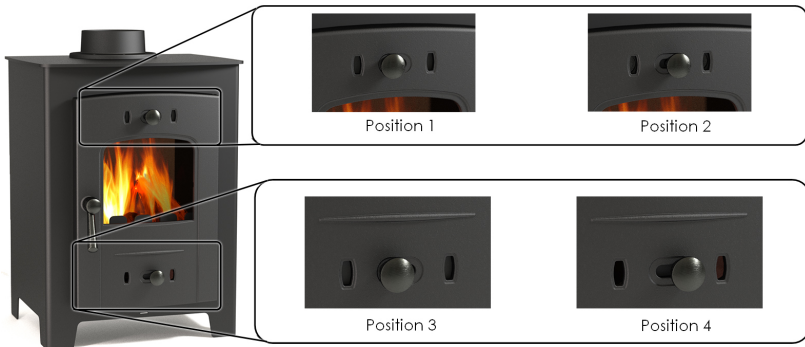


Figure1: Single door stove air inlet controls.

#### 4.1.1 Primary air

Primary air enters the appliance through the inlets near to the bottom of the fire door. Your stove has a control knob to adjust the flow of the primary air.

Sliding the knob to the right will increase the amount of air intake to the stove, as shown in position 4 (in figure 1). To decrease, push the slider to the left, as shown in position 3 (in figure 1).

### **4.1.2 Airwash system / Secondary air**

The airwash/secondary air inlet has an internal sliding plate with slots, housed in a cover plate, and is located either above or at the top of the fire door.

Sliding the control knob to the right as far as it will go, achieves the fully open position, see position 2 (in figure 1 on the preceding page). Sliding it to the left will shut off the air inlet slots as shown in position 1.

## **5 Lighting your stove**

### **5.1 Burning wood**

When wood is burnt it is in fact the wood gas that burns and this requires a good supply of air coming from above the fuel. For this reason we will use all the air inlets while igniting the stove, but will then reduce this to air coming from the airwash system and over draught. As much as 40% of the heat from burning wood is obtained from secondary combustion and this can be severely hampered by air entering the fire box from below the fuel via the primary air inlet control.

1. Set the fire by using scrunched up newspaper and placing a layer of dry kindling wood on top of this. The use of two or three fire lighters may assist in lighting the kindling.
2. Fully open your air control(s) and light the fire.
3. After the kindling has caught light, you should almost close the fire door leaving it ajar by about 20mm. This will aid flue draw during the initial lighting of the fire.
4. The flue temperature and draw should be established after five minutes, and the kindling reduced to form an ember bed. Carefully load the stove with well seasoned wood and fully close the fire door.
5. After ten to fifteen minutes, close the primary air control and regulate the airwash system to control the burn

rate and maintain clear glass, typically by reducing to approximately half open.

### **5.2 Burning solid fuels**

Solid fuel burns best with its air supply for combustion coming from underneath the fuel. To achieve this the burn will be controlled by the primary air control (see section 4 on page 5). This allows you to control the flow of air underneath the grate.

1. To begin set the airwash / primary air slider to about one quarter open and the primary air slider fully open (see section on Air inlet controls on page 5).
2. Light as with wood fuel (see steps 1, 2 and 3 on the previous page), with kindling and fire lighters.
3. Once flue draw has been established, after about five minutes, carefully load the stove with fuel and close the door.
4. When the fire is well alight regulate the burning rate by controlling the primary air inlet control.
5. The airwash should be opened sufficiently to keep the door glass clean.

## 5.3 Warning - Fume / Smoke emissions

Warning: Properly installed, with a suitable flue or chimney, operated and maintained correctly, this appliance will not emit fumes into the dwelling.

Occasional fumes when de-ashing and refuelling may occur. However, persistent fume emission is potentially dangerous and must be investigated by a HETAS registered installer.

**Stop using the appliance if you smell fumes or see smoke escaping.**

If fume emission does persist, the following immediate actions should be taken:

- Open doors and windows to ventilate room.
- Let the fire die or extinguish and safely dispose of fuel from the appliance.
- Check for flue or chimney blockage, and clean if required.

Seek expert advice from your HETAS registered installer. Do not attempt to re-light the fire until the cause of the fume emission has been identified and corrected.

## 6 Further information for all stove owners

### 6.1 Door glass

The door glass should remain clear during normal burning. However under certain conditions, such as burning at a low rate, using damp wood or overnight burning, the glass may become somewhat blackened. To remedy this, operate the

appliance at a fast rate. Alternatively when the stove is cold, open the door and clean the inside face of the glass with a damp cloth or with glass cleaner (available from stove shops and [www.aradastovesandspares.com](http://www.aradastovesandspares.com)).

### **6.2 Reduced burning**

When wood is burnt slowly in a closed appliance, it produces moisture and tar, which will create condensation and deposits in the chimney. This effect can be minimised by burning hard for a short period, fifteen to twenty minutes twice a day.

To avoid chimney problems your appliance should not be burnt at a reduced burn rate without a period of fast burning. Fast burning is when the stove is burnt with a 'lively flame' and a higher temperature. We also advise against stoking the fire with wood and reducing the air intake(s) before leaving the stove to extinguish (perhaps when retiring to bed) as this can lead to a cooling of the stove and flue also resulting in incomplete combustion and sooty deposits.

#### Over firing and chimney fires

DO NOT over fire your appliance. Firing the stove at maximum for prolonged periods may result in over-firing. If the chimney connector or casing glows red the appliance is being over-fired and this may result in a chimney fire.

### **6.3 Periods of non-use (summer months)**

Please ensure that your stove is left clean and moving components are well lubricated with a water repelling corrosion inhibitor for the summer months (during periods of prolonged non-use). If possible store the throat plate outside of the stove. Check all moveable components at regular intervals, to ensure they are moving freely.

Allow air movement through the stove by opening the airwash and primary air inlet control(s) to about half way, open or leave the door ajar. This will allow a free flow of air through the appliance thus preventing moisture and condensation forming inside the stove and chimney. This preventative maintenance will ensure your stove stays in the best condition for the coming winter months.

### **6.4 Replacement parts**

As a leading manufacturer we are conscious of being able to support all our stove users with the supply of spare parts to ensure your continued enjoyment and warmth from your Villager stove from Arada. You can find a complete list of spares and consumables such as liners, grate bars and throat plates as well as items to enhance its visual appearance and efficiency such as Arada anthracite stove paint and rope kits.

All replacement parts or accessories can be ordered from your local stove dealer or online direct from Arada at [www.aradastovesandspares.com](http://www.aradastovesandspares.com) or visit [www.aradastoves.com/support](http://www.aradastoves.com/support).

It is worth noting that the fitting of non-official Arada parts to your stove may invalidate its guarantee.

### **6.5 Ash removal**

The appliance will require ash to be removed periodically but an ash bed of approximately 20mm (3/4") should be maintained when burning wood.

The ash pan should be emptied when the level of ash reaches the top of the ash pan. On no account should the ash be allowed to build up to touch the underside of the grate bars, as this will greatly reduce the life span of the grate.

### To remove ash use the supplied operating tool:

- Open the door of the stove, pausing briefly when ajar so as to allow the fire to adjust to the increased air supply.
- Put the fork end of the operating tool into the slots of the ash pan and remove from the ash pit chamber.
- Empty the ash into a suitable container and replace the ash pan into the stove, withdraw the operating tool and close the fire door.

Warning: The ash can be very hot. Care must be taken not to burn hands or household objects with falling embers.

Empty only into a metal container. Even if the ash appears cold, red-hot embers may be concealed and could easily start a fire or cause an injury.

## 7 Ongoing care for your Villager stove

The following items should be checked on your stove at regular intervals to help ensure that the safe and efficient use of your stove continues for many years to come. This should only be done when the stove is unlit and cold.

### 7.1 Adjusting the door hinges

Once the appliance has been under fire for a period of time the fire door may appear to have moved out of alignment with relation to the door aperture or catch. This is quite normal and due to the settling of the casting.

**Doors attached with two hinges fixed to the body with screws can be re-aligned as follows:**

When the appliance is cold, open the fire door so that it is at right angles to the front of the stove and then lift the fire door up off its hinges.

Gently tap the hinge pins to compensate for the misalignment and then re-fit the door and check to ensure it now sits square to the body; if not repeat the above steps.

**If the fire door needs to be raised, please follow the instructions below:**

When the appliance is cold, open the fire door so that it is at right angles to the front of the stove and lift the fire door up off the hinges.

Drop one washer on the top and bottom hinge pins. Fit the door and check. Repeat again if necessary.

## 7.2 Liners / firebricks

The stoves liners (also known as firebricks) may become cracked after long periods of heavy use or after being knocked by the loading of fuel or a poorly aimed fire poker. If the liners are still staying in situ and are able to support the throat plate correctly there is no need to replace them. Cracked liners will not in themselves affect the performance of the stove.

## 7.3 Throat plate

The throat plate should be removed from the stove and checked once a month and any accumulated deposits should be cleaned off. This is best done with a brush. After a period of time the throat plate may begin to corrode or distort and will require replacing. A replacement throat plate can be sourced from your dealer or at [www.aradastovesandspares.com](http://www.aradastovesandspares.com).



## **7.4 Fire door seal**

The rope seal around the edges of the main fire door should also be checked. Look for signs of fraying, peeling away or the ends not meeting. If the rope is unable to create a good seal with the stove body it should be repaired/replaced. A poor seal will decrease your ability to control the burn rate and its efficiency whilst leading to an increase in heat lost through the flue.

## **7.5 Cracked glass**

It is not recommended to operate the stove with cracked glass; this can lead to over firing due to air leaking into the firebox and it may fail completely leading to personal injury or a fire. You should discontinue use of your stove until it has been repaired. You can source replacement glass kits from your stove dealer or online at [www.aradastovesandspares.com](http://www.aradastovesandspares.com)

# **8 Further resources / reading**

Once again we would like to thank you for buying your Villager stove. When you buy a Villager stove, you are not only buying a first class appliance, you are buying a commitment from us to look after you and your appliance.

We appreciate that we have given you a lot of information to read, but we hope it has been clear and helpful and that you are now able to enjoy the full benefits of your stove.

However if you have any queries, doubts or would like further advice please do not hesitate to speak to your Villager dealer or call us. You will find our contact details after this paragraph as well as a list of resources where you can discover more information about your stove and associated articles.

- HETAS  
[www.hetas.co.uk](http://www.hetas.co.uk)

- Solid Fuel Association  
[www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk)
- Document J Building Regulations (Combustion Appliances)  
[www.planningportal.gov.uk/](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/)
- The National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS)  
[www.nacs.org.uk/](http://www.nacs.org.uk/)
  
- Arada Technical Support  
0844 8567181  
[technical@aradastoves.com](mailto:technical@aradastoves.com)
- Arada's Support Site  
[www.aradastoves.com/support](http://www.aradastoves.com/support)
- Arada's Spares Site  
[www.aradastovesandspares.com](http://www.aradastovesandspares.com)

## **9 Guarantee**

Your Villager Athlone stove carries a guarantee against defects of manufacture and faulty workmanship for a period of 3 years from date of purchase. This does not apply to items which would be subject to fair wear and tear. Fire box liner panels, Fuel retainer, Throat plate, Door rope, Door glass and Gaskets are not covered by the guarantee.

The Supplier / Manufacturer will not be responsible for any consequential or incidental loss, damage, or injury however caused.

USE OF SPARE PARTS OTHER THAN THOSE SUPPLIED BY THE MANUFACTURER WILL INVALIDATE THE APPLIANCE WARRANTY.

All guarantee periods commence on the date of purchase. Our guarantee is offered as an addition to your statutory rights.

The guarantee is applicable to the original purchaser only and is non-transferable.

If further information is required please contact your Athlone stove supplier, or our technical help line will be pleased to offer assistance.

Please telephone: 0844 8475107 or email: [info@aradastoves.com](mailto:info@aradastoves.com)

When you contact the helpline, they will need to know:

- Your name, address, post code and telephone number.
- Clear and concise details of the fault.
- Your proof of purchase, installation and annual servicing details will also be required.

Information is also available at  
[www.aradastoves.com/support](http://www.aradastoves.com/support)

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