

PELLET FOR BEGINNERS

WHAT ARE PELLETS?

Like briquettes, wood pellets are produced during a compression process (so-called pelleting), during which the raw material is pressed under high pressure into cylinders with a diameter of 4-8 millimeters. This raw material can be wood chips, sawdust (wood pellets) or an agricultural by-product, such as corn stalks (agripellet). Depending on the raw material, the pellets can be made with or without a binding material, in the latter case, the cylinders are held together by materials extracting from the wood during pressing.

In addition to the pellet stove and pellet boiler specially developed for this fuel, pellets can also be burned in an existing mixed-fired boiler, if it is equipped with a pellet burner (and the corresponding dispenser and storage).



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WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF PELLETS?

- Pellets can be dosed excessively well, and this process can even be automated, so in the case of a suitable size pellet storage, the pellet boiler can operate on its own for up to a week without intervention in an average household.
- Since its calorific value is higher than that of conventional firewood, a smaller amount is needed, and after purchase, we have nothing else to do with it compared to firewood (sawing, splitting), just adding the desired amount into the storage compartment.
- Since pelleting can only be done with dry material, its moisture content is also low (7-10%), which further increases the efficiency of combustion.
- The raw material of household pellets is mostly a by-product, which is why it is more beneficial than firewood from an environmental and climate protection point of view.

WHAT SHOULD WE PAY ATTENTION TO?

- Pellet boilers require regular maintenance and cleaning to rid the equipment of accumulated slag and ash.
- When storing, make sure that the bags are in a protected place so that they don't get punctured, and if possible, don't leave an open bag, or close it properly, because the pellets can fall apart due to moisture.
- In order to buy pellets of the right quality, first of all, we must check what type the manufacturer recommends for our boiler, and even if there is a deviation from this, we should try to get the pellets from a qualified source in order to ensure safe firing!
- Look for the following standards:
 - EN-plus A1 / DIN-plus / ÖNORM: high-quality, low-ash pellets at a higher price;
 - EN-plus A2 / DIN: higher ash content than in the case of premium products, but at a more favorable price - most of the pellets sold in Hungary belong to this category;
 - EN-B / SGS: these ratings refer to pellets with a very high ash content, it is not recommended to burn them in equipment sensitive to this.

