



BRIQUETTE DISCHARGER

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WHAT IS A BRIKET?

Briquetting is a compaction process in which a **properly chopped raw material is compressed under high pressure**. This raw material can be an agricultural by-product (agri-pellet) or wood waste (wood briquette). It is produced by a hydraulic or mechanical process, usually without the need for a binder to 'hold' the briquette together, and is held together by the lignin released from the wood during pressing.



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WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BRIQUETTES?

- During the briquetting process, the material is compressed at enormous pressures of more than 1000 bar, resulting in a fuel with an extremely high energy density. This means **less heating labour, less packing, less space and a lower ash content**.
- Since briquetting can only be carried out on dry material, the **moisture content is low, which further increases combustion efficiency**.
- As a by-product, it is **more environmentally and climatically beneficial than firewood**.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR?

- As the calorific value of wood briquettes is comparable to that of lignite (~17-18 MJ/kg), **briquettes should never be used in the firebox as much as firewood**. The instructions for use of the combustion appliance usually specify the maximum amount of briquettes that can be used, but in general, the **maximum amount of briquettes that can be loaded into a tiled stove is one third of the firebox, or half in the case of mixed firing**.
- Ignition should be carried out in the same way as for conventional wood fires, i.e. **from above**, to ensure a more even supply of oxygen.
- There is no quality standard for briquettes, so it is worth buying carefully. Generally speaking, **the darker the briquette, the better the quality** (i.e. the more hardwood), while agri-pellets with a lower calorific value are generally lighter. The shape of the briquette (cylindrical or brick body) does not affect the quality.
- **However, the briquettes must have an EUTR code**. If it doesn't have one, it means that it may come from an illegal source, which is not good for quality.
- It's also worth getting briquettes from a controlled source, because it is possible that briquettes are made from wood that has already been treated. **Burning chemicals in treated wood is a serious air pollutant and**



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