

# ULONWABO ESTATE COMMUNICATION

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23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

Dear Ulonwabo Residents

## **Important Notice Regarding the Burning of Chipboard and Other Treated Woods**

We are writing to kindly remind all residents of the importance of safe and environmentally responsible fireplace use within our estate during the coming cold winter months.



Please be aware that burning chipboard, painted, treated, or glued wood products releases harmful toxins and pollutants into the air. These substances can pose serious health risks to individuals, pets, and the broader community, particularly those with respiratory conditions. Combustion releases carcinogenic (cancer-causing) and toxic chemicals such as arsenic trioxide, hexavalent chromium, formaldehyde, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that contaminate air, soil, and water.

- **Toxic Fumes:**

Chipboard is typically made by gluing wood particles together with adhesives and resins, such as formaldehyde. When burned, these materials release harmful gases and particulate matter into the air.

- **Respiratory Issues:**

Inhaling these fumes can irritate the respiratory tract, causing coughing, shortness of breath, and other breathing difficulties.

- **Skin Irritation:**

Exposure to the smoke or dust from burning chipboard can cause skin irritation, redness, and itching.

- **Potential for Cancer:**

Some chemicals released during combustion are known or suspected carcinogens, increasing the risk of developing certain cancers.

- **Other Health Concerns:**

In addition to respiratory and skin issues, exposure to fumes from burning chipboard can also cause headaches, dizziness, and nausea.

The below link has much more detailed information related to the various poisonous elements released during the combustion process of treated wood.

<https://deepgreenpermaculture.com/2025/03/22/health-and-environmental-dangers-of-burning-cca-treated-and-synthetic-timber/>

Additionally, such materials can cause damage to flue systems and contribute to excessive creosote buildup, increasing the risk of chimney fires.

We therefore kindly request that residents burn only clean, untreated, and seasoned firewood. By doing so, we can help ensure a healthier environment for all and maintain the safety and integrity of our homes and shared surroundings.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

Thank you for your attention and continued commitment to keeping our community safe and pleasant for everyone.

Regards

UHOA Committee