CHATEAU SHEDS

WOOD-FIRED vs. ELECTRIC SAUNA STOVES

A Clear Comparison to Help You Choose the Right Sauna Experience

Choosing between a wood-fired sauna stove and an electric sauna stove is one of the biggest decisions in designing your sauna. Both options work well. The right choice depends on how you value tradition, ambience, convenience, installation cost, and your on-site electrical setup.

WOOD-FIRED STOVE

Advantages

- Traditional sauna experience
- Strong, intense, surrounding heat
- Beautiful ambience and atmosphere
- Glow of the fire through the glass stove door
- Crackling sound of burning wood
- Smell of a real wood fire
- Lower startup cost overall
- No major electrical installation required for the sauna heater
- Pre-built and delivered with stove and chimney already installed
- Ready to use the same day it is delivered
- Wood-fired stoves are surrounded by granite sauna rocks and are designed for pouring water over the rocks to create steam and humidity for a traditional wet-sauna experience
- Preferred by many experienced sauna users who want the most traditional high-heat sauna experience

Disadvantages

- Requires firewood
- Requires you to start and maintain a fire
- Takes approximately 30 minutes to reach temperature
- Less convenient than electric
- You must go outside, bring in wood, and tend the fire
- Requires a chimney and proper clearance

ELECTRIC STOVE

Advantages

- Extremely convenient
- Push-button operation
- Wi-Fi control available on many models
- Easy temperature control
- No firewood required
- You can turn the sauna on from inside the house and have it ready to use later
- Electric heaters also use granite sauna rocks
- We are authorized Harvia dealers and can help determine the best stove based on the hot room size and the features you prefer
- If you choose electric, we provide a $500 credit because we would not install the wood stove and chimney system, and that credit is applied toward your electric heater
- If you are adding a heater, your electrician can usually install the required 110V outlet at the same time the sauna electrical work is completed

Disadvantages

- Higher cost to get started
- Minimum approximately $4,000 total for the electric stove plus the low end of the required on-site electrical work
- Electric heater itself typically costs around $3,000
- Requires an electrician
- May require trenching, wiring, site preparation, and electrical permitting
- The farther the sauna is from the home or electrical panel, the more expensive the installation can become
- No fire glow, wood aroma, or crackling-fire ambience

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