



Technical Bulletin #49

General Information Tip

Care and Repair of Soapstone

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Re: *All Soapstone Woodstoves*

Beauty, consistent heat and uniqueness are some of the characteristics that make HearthStone soapstone stoves so special. The proper care of your soapstone will keep these features for a lifetime. The most crucial step is your very first fire. Your owner's manual goes through the break in procedure step by step. Please follow those instructions carefully. Also, if your stove has not been used for a long period of time, such as the first fire after the summer, follow the break-in procedure at least once to minimize the stress of a hot fire on a cold stove.

If using a steamer or other cooking utensils on your stove, please be careful to lift it up rather than sliding it around the top. Soapstone is relatively soft and can scratch. If you spill something or touch the stove with a piece of plastic while it is hot, a stain may appear. Normally it will burn out naturally with time. Sometimes the more you fuss with it, the worse it gets. Leave it alone and the heating of the stone will take care of it. Do not use chemical agents to wash the stone. Also, do not use waxes or any polishing agent on the stone. Clean the stone with water, any non-abrasive cleaner and a soft cloth. Only clean the stone when the stove is cold.

If you have a scratch in the stone, do not attempt to polish or rub it out. The best approach is to conceal the scratch so it is not a noticeable. Common remedies include:

Ashes: Rub ashes into the scratch.

Lead Pencil: Use a pencil to fill in and hide the scratch.

High temperature stove paint: Usually a grey or charcoal colored paint works best. Spray a little on a piece of cardboard and then use a model airplane brush to touch up the scratch. Lightly polish the stone with 000 or 0000 steel wool.

Occasionally a hairline fracture appears in a stone. These occur naturally and may extend for an inch or two. Check to be sure the fracture does not go all the way thru the stone. Do this by shining a flashlight on one side of the stone and see if the light is visible from the other. If the light is not visible, the fracture is merely cosmetic in nature and no further action is necessary. If the light is visible, contact your HearthStone dealer.

Replacement stones are available but please keep in mind it may not match the color of the existing stone. As soapstone is quarried it actually shifts in color and over time a new piece of stone will not look the same as one that has been used.