

# User's Manual



## Earth Fires Vortex and Vortex Cub

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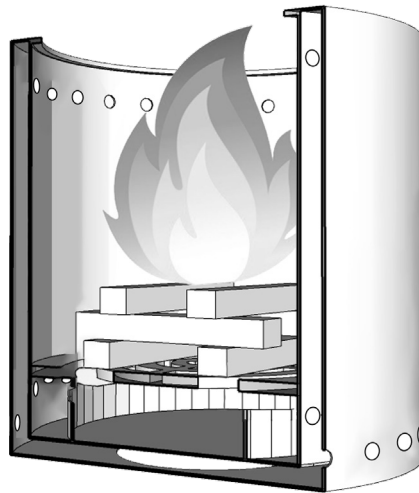
## Section 1: Setting up your Vortex firepit

1. It is very important to read and adhere to the safety notices in Section 7 of this manual before you operate the appliance.
2. Locate a level non-combustible surface on which to place your firepit. We recommend you place on a removable stone slab as the firepit may create a mark when the Corten steel completes its curing process.
  - » If you are placing your firepit on a patio or any area with stone slabs, it is important that you use the firepit stand provided. This will protect the patio below from excessive heat and likely cracking. Remember your firepit will get very hot on the bottom. Even if you are using a removable stone slab to protect the patio from staining, the firepit stand is still required to protect from heat transfer.
  - » The firepit can be placed on grass, but this will likely lead to scorching of the grass below. The firepit stand will reduce this, but not stop it completely.
  - » The firepit can also be placed on gravel or sand, which have the added benefit of allowing the rain water to soak away during the Corten steel curing process. It is important that the surface is still level and secure.
3. To assemble the firepit stand, firstly connect the two stands together, then tilt the firepit onto its side, before lining up the firepit stand correctly with the hole under the firepit so it sits securely
4. The ashpan and grate fit into your Vortex firepit as illustrated below (your firepit will come with these already in position).
5. You can remove the top ring during initial loading, but it is important to replace it before you light your fire. This helps the Vortex fire burn cleaner and guides the flames into the center of the firepit.

## Section 2: How to light the perfect fire

1. Cut a range of medium logs and small kindling that fits horizontally inside your Vortex firepit. The Vortex Cub (350mm) can fit logs up to 9"/225mm. The Vortex (600mm) can fit logs up to 18"/460mm.
2. Starting with the medium-sized logs, place 2 pieces flat on the fire grate, with enough space between them to allow air to circulate.

3. Now place about 6 smaller-sized pieces across the medium ones below, crisscrossing each layer (as illustrated below). This will start to create the fuel stack in your firepit, which when ignited from the top, will create the draw needed for the fire to burn well. This is called the 'top-down method' of lighting a fire.



4. Place an Eco firelighter on top of your stack and cover with one more layer of kindling.
5. Ignite the firelighter on top of the kindling.
6. Once the fire stack has started to catch well, you can add full logs gently using the heatproof glove provided.

## Section 3: Tips & Fuel

**Top tip 1:** Do not fill your Vortex fire above the secondary airwash holes as the airwash will become less effective and more smoke will be created.

**Top tip 2:** Always use kiln dried or seasoned wood. This is better for the environment, produces more heat, and less smoke. Look out for Woodsure's 'Ready to Burn' logo that indicates the moisture content is less than 20%. Make sure to store your wood in a dry place.

**Top Tip 3:** Your firepit will take 10-15 minutes for the airwash to take full effect. During this initial ignition stage there will be more smoke, before you see the flames become clear. So if you are having friends over, think of lighting your Vortex firepit 15 minutes before they arrive.



## Section 4: Features of your Vortex firepit

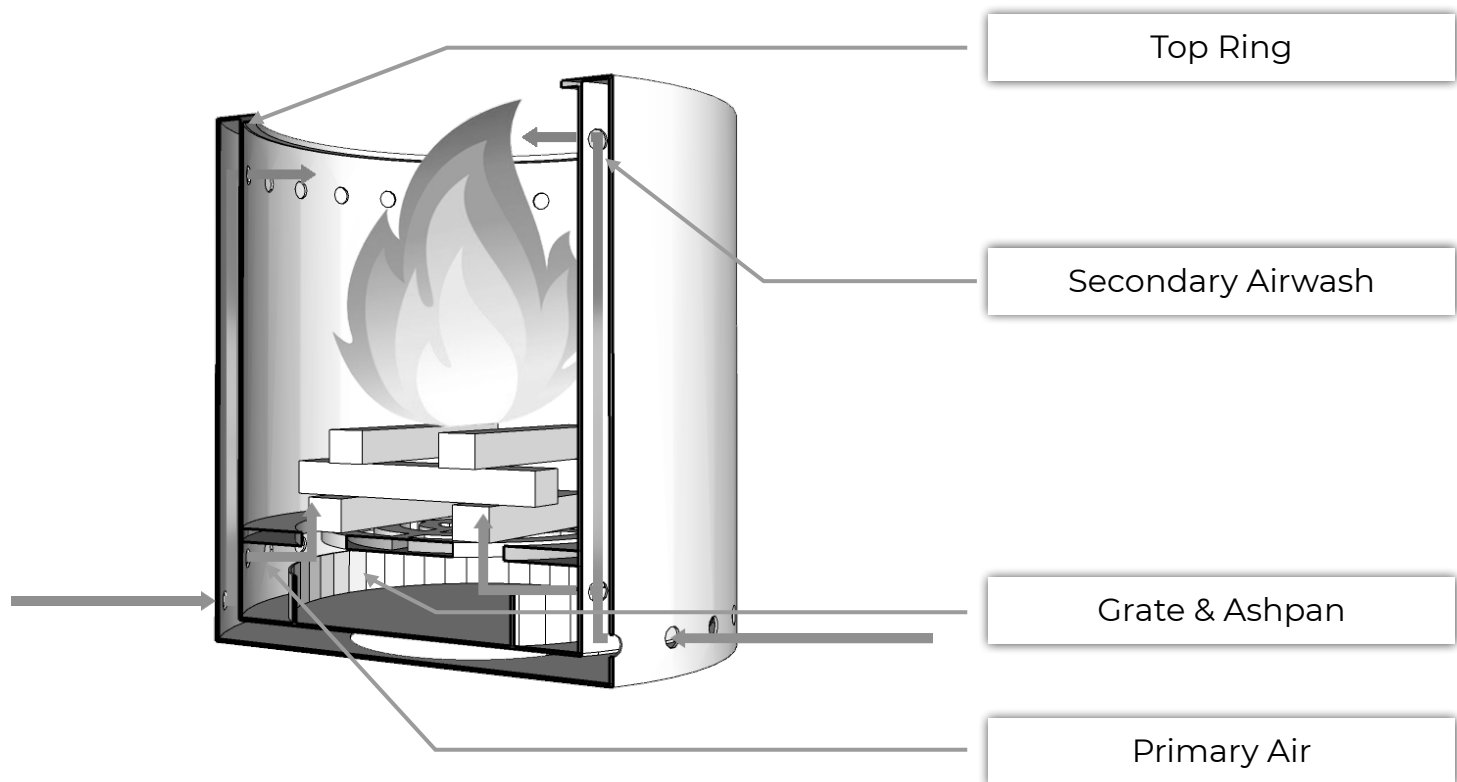
**Primary air.** The primary air is particularly useful during the initial ignition process, helping you to light the fire quickly.

**Secondary airwash.** This is a key feature of your Vortex fire that injects air into the top of the firepit, allowing the fire to burn cleaner and hotter. This dramatically reduces smoke which is great for you and for the environment.

**Grate and Ashpan.** Your grate will aid good combustion in the firepit as well as prolonging its life. The ashpan makes cleaning the firepit simple.

**Top Ring.** This works with the secondary airwash to guide the flames into the center of the firepit, allowing the fire to burn hotter and cleaner.

**Corten steel.** Vortex fires are made from Corten steel which oxidises to form a protective layer on the surface. Other steel will corrode in damp conditions, but the unique properties of Corten steel protect it from corrosion and your firepit will actually look better over time. You will notice the Corten steel change colour as it seasons and during use; this is a property of the steel.



## Section 5: Warranty

Your firepit comes with a 12 month manufacturer's warranty. It is important that the recommended fuel (wood) is used as high-heat coal will shorten the life of your firepit and invalidate the warranty.

## Section 6: Storage and maintenance

There is no need to cover your Vortex firepit, nor to store it inside. Vortex fires are made from Corten steel which oxidises to form a protective layer on the surface. Unlike other steel this acts to protect the steel from corrosion from the weather. Thanks to the clever chemical make-up, you can rest assured that your firepit is protected from the weather, and avoid the need to bring it inside when it rains.

After each use, wait until the firepit has completely cooled then remove the grate to empty the ashpan. This will ensure rain does not mix with ash, clogging the drain holes and creating a messy residue on the ground. It will also prolong the life of the fire grate. We recommend this is done as soon as your Vortex firepit becomes cool.

From time to time you may need to clean ash out that has dropped into the primary and secondary air holes. Do this when the firepit has completely cooled. First remove the top ring and grate then empty the ashpan. Now tilt the firepit on the edge of the base. Lastly tilt the firepit from one side to the other. You should see any ash fall out of the hole in the base. You may need a small brush to work out any debris that has stuck between the layers. Two people will be required to do this with the larger Vortex 600mm firepit.

## Section 7: Important Safety Notices

1. Your Vortex firepit will be extremely hot when in use. Never touch your firepit until it has completely cooled down.
2. Ensure any highly flammable materials, including gas cylinders and oil tanks, are kept at least 10meters away from the firepit when in use.
3. Your firepit is for outdoor use only and should never be used indoors, in an enclosed area, nor under a canopy. Poor ventilation can cause buildup of carbon monoxide and lead to asphyxiation.
4. Keep all electrical cords away from the firepit.
5. Do not wear flammable or loose clothing when operating your Vortex firepit as sparks or heat could cause these to ignite.
6. Do not use you firepit under or near overhanging trees or shrubs. Sparks could easily ignite the plants.
7. Your Vortex firepit should not be operated by children.
8. Your Vortex firepit should not be operated by a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs that may impair the user's ability to operate it safely.
9. Never leave your firepit unattended. Particular caution should be taken when children or pets are present.
10. Earth Fires recommend the use of kiln dried or seasoned wood. This is better for the environment, produces more heat, and less smoke. You should consult your local authority for further guidance on fuels that can be burnt in that location.
11. Let the firepit cool naturally as dousing with water when hot will produce water vapor that can scald the user.
12. Do not move the firepit when lit or still hot
13. Do not clean out the ashpan until the firepit has cooled completely.
14. Earth Fires firepits and BBQs are made from heavy duty Corten steel. They are heavy and we recommend 2 people lifting in an appropriate manner.



For more information see  
[www.earthfires.co.uk](http://www.earthfires.co.uk)