



Norbert Senf <norbert.senf@gmail.com>

Double Masonry Stoves - Living Rm Heater Stack on top of the Basement Heater

2 messages

Paul Corr <pcorr@kingston.net>

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 10:21 PM

To: norbert.senf@gmail.com

Hi Norbert,

Thought I'd drop you a note on how our two masonry heaters are functioning for our 4200sq ft home.

These two heaters heat 3800 sq ft no problem and the other 400 sq ft is a room above the garage attached to the house and this room is heated by water radiators heated by propane.

This winter I stacked 16.8 face cords in our wood room which is attached to the house but is an unheated space which is access to the right of the first photo. Walk out basement.

I managed to keep the basement at 18C to 19C. The main floor at 20C or better. The master bathroom where the Chimney runs through at 20C and the other two rooms on the top floor 17C to 15C with the stairs and short hallway close to 17C. Our office on the top floor is the coolest room of the house in the winter due to a cathedral ceiling and as always had to run an electric oil filled radiator a few times on a Friday when my wife works from home.

I never know when to stop using the main floor heater and the last fire was on the 5th of May. But for the basement heater I'm still using it in a way I haven't before. I usually stop both heaters at the same time and let the basement go cool - 17C. So this May I'm still doing fires twice a day in the basement heater and even with temps around 20C outside in the evening I still get the smoke do draw up the 40 feet of chimney no problem. I'm burning seven pieces of wood each burn about 2-3 inches split which keeps the basement around 20C. I plan to do this until June to keep the basement from going cool because its now finished and we use it.

So the reason for two small fires a day in the basement is the heater is sitting on mother earth which is a heat sink and sucks the heat out of it if I only do one small fire a day. The heater on the main floor will hold its heat no problem with one fire a day with the same amount of wood. The only thing I worry about is the draw up the chimney but I guess since the masonry is warm to hot it works.

So these heaters work for 3800 sq ft. We have access to free wood at the moment so my cost for running a chainsaw is less than \$100 for the year. The propane tank holds 1500 liters and we use around 900 to 1100 liters each year and that costs us \$800 to \$950 and thanks to the Liberal Gov't in Ontario our hydro bill is back to \$75/month. So we light and heat our home for around \$2000/year. If we ever have to buy wood we'd buy it by the truck load (logs) and cut and split it. That would take us to \$3000/year.

As I type this we have one face cord left and will use very little of it by June. So 16 face cords to heat our home this heating season.

Our home is ICF basement wall and main floor wall. The top floor wall is 2x6 (R22) with 2.5 inches of styrofoam on the outside of it. The ceiling is R50.

The last email I sent to you about our home was 2013? I can't remember.

Colin Coveny is the mason who built our heaters. We use lock top dampers and the sliding dampers are not used in either heater.

This is the first heating season that I purposely up the heat in our home as the temps described above. The winters before this the main floor was 18C and the basement was 17C and the top floor was always on the cool side. I'm always afraid I'll run out of wood but I'm now convinced that this home only needs 17 face cords per year.

We're very happy we spent the money and built two heaters. If anyone is ever thinking of doing what we did and they want to see this setup just get in contact with me. The only thing I'd change is putting the masonry heaters in the middle of the home and not have a cathedral ceiling in the upstairs room. If the chimney was in the middle of the upstairs and the rooms all shared a part of the chimney the top floor would be warmer in the dead of winter.

Take care.

Paul Corr and Ann Gratton.

Basement Room

Basement Bedroom

Living Room

Dining Room

Master Bathroom

5 attachments



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58K



IMG_5660.jpg
59K



IMG_5661.jpg
58K



IMG_5664.jpg
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IMG_8857.jpg
61K

Norbert Senf <norbert.senf@gmail.com>
To: Paul Corr <pcorr@kingston.net>

Thu, May 24, 2018 at 8:45 AM

Hi Paul:

Thanks very much for your report. Very interesting to get this detailed feedback.
With your permission, I'd like to post your feedback on our "current projects" page, as it may help someone in future who is planning a similar style of house.

Thanks again Best Norbert

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