



Caring for Your Cedar Sauna

BURNWELL SAUNAS · OWNER'S CARE GUIDE

Handcrafted Ontario cedar, built to live outdoors in Muskoka.

A little care keeps your sauna running beautifully, and looking the part, for decades. Here is everything an owner needs, in plain language.

START HERE

What's normal, not defects

Real wood and real steel, out in the weather year-round. Before you decide something is wrong, know what natural materials simply do. None of the below is a defect, and none of it affects how your sauna performs.

- **Gaps and checking.** Boards develop small gaps and hairline splits as cedar expands and contracts through the seasons. On cabin models you may see daylight through a seam or two. That's wood being wood.
- **Knots and grain variation.** Every board is different, so every sauna is one of one.
- **Interior darkening and water marks.** Moisture moves through cedar from the outside in. Darkening and marks on the inside are normal cedar behaviour, not a leak.
- **Surface rust on the stove.** High heat is harder than any coating. Light surface rust can appear within the first month of use and is purely cosmetic. A quick annual touch-up keeps it sharp.

FIRST MONTH

Your first 30 days

Curing the stove (wood-fired, first 2 to 3 fires). Run moderate fires, not roaring ones. The coating cures with heat and may give off a little smoke and odour on the first few burns. That's expected. Keep the door cracked and the vents open while it cures.

The two-week band check (all barrel models). Cedar shifts as it settles into your climate. After about two weeks, snug the steel bands: tighten the nuts until firm, snug but not crushing. Then check monthly through the first season, and every spring and fall after that.

Rocks. Rinse them before first use and stack them loosely so air moves between them. Ladle water on in small pours, not by the bucket.

EVERYDAY USE

Running your sauna

Wood-fired

- Burn only seasoned hardwood, split and dried 6+ months. Never use treated, painted, or glued wood, and never use accelerants.
- Small, hot fires beat big, smouldering ones: cleaner burn, far less creosote.
- Remove ash only when fully cold, into a metal bucket stored away from anything that can burn.
- Inspect and clean the chimney pipe at least once a season, more with heavy use.
- Keep everything combustible clear of the stove and pipe: towels, swimsuits, and stacked firewood.

Electric

- The 240V connection is completed by a licensed electrician. If you selected Burnwell's hookup option, we arrange the electrician for install day.
- Never drape towels or clothing on or above the heater, and keep the guard in place.
- Pour water only on the rocks, never directly onto the elements.

A note on heaters: your sauna was built and set up for the heater selected with your order.

AT A GLANCE

Seasonal care calendar

When	What
2 weeks after install	First band snug-up; check the door swing.
Monthly (first season)	Band check. Wood-fired: take the ash out and glance at the pipe.
Spring & fall	Snug the bands; clear leaves and debris off and around the unit. Wood-fired: clean the chimney. If desired, protect exterior cedar with CUTEK Extreme Exterior Wood Protection Oil.
Annually	Stove touch-up if you like: wire-brush surface rust and recoat with high-temperature stove paint.
As needed	Interior clean: warm water, mild soap, soft brush. No pressure washers or harsh chemicals inside.

PROTECTING THE WOOD

Exterior cedar care (optional)

Untreated cedar naturally weathers to a handsome silver-grey and keeps performing. If you prefer to hold more of the warm cedar colour and add water repellency, we recommend **CUTEK Extreme Exterior Wood Protection Oil**.

Follow CUTEK's directions for cleaning, surface preparation, weather, coverage, drying, and recoating. Apply it only to clean, dry exterior wood, and test a small inconspicuous area first. Exterior surfaces only. Do not use exterior oil, stain, sealer, or varnish inside the hot room.

INTERIOR BENCHES

Routine cleaning needs only warm water, mild soap, and a soft brush. If you want optional bench protection, use a sauna-specific product such as the **Harvia Sauna Care Set** and follow its directions. Do not use exterior wood oil inside the sauna.

IN THE SAUNA

Sessions and safety

- A typical session is 10 to 15 minutes at 70 to 90°C, then cool off and repeat. Hydrate before and after; no alcohol beforehand.
- Supervise children at all times. Check with your doctor first if you're pregnant or managing a heart condition.
- Wood-fired: keep the intake and vents unblocked. The stove needs air, and so do you.
- Meeting any local permit or insurance requirements for a wood-burning appliance is the owner's responsibility.

If something ever seems genuinely wrong, get in touch before you worry about it. We'd rather look at a photo today than a problem next year. The 'what's normal' list above and ordinary wear items aren't faults, but we're always glad to take a look.

Questions any time · (705) 230-4022 · info@burnwellsaunas.ca · burnwellsaunas.ca