

ECCO STOVE

SOMERSET LONGHOUSE WITH 678 AND THE DOMESTIC HOT WATER OPTION

Amid the small country lanes and dikes of Somerset In the Mendip Hills, not far from Crook Peak and the beautiful Wessex walk leading between Weston-Super-Mare and Wells lies Compton Bishop, the home of South West Fireplaces Ltd and the owners of the company Alex and Lucy Gooby.

With no mains gas in this picturesque area Compton Bishop and the surrounding villages rely on LPG, Oil or solid fuel appliances for heating and water. Alex considered a range of possibilities for their traditional 20 metre x 3 metre Somerset Long house including biomass heating units and boiler stoves. This eventually led Alex to The Masonry Heaters Association of North America and from bespoke masonry heaters to kits and then pre-made units such as the Ecco Stoves®.



After seeing the capabilities and the efficient use of fuel that masonry heaters could achieve Alex was smitten, but needed to determine how to achieve his requirements. Water heating was one of the areas that needed to be included which narrowed the field of choice to bespoke units or pre-made units with bolt on offerings.

"Can be combined with our heating system"

Alex chose the Ecco Stove E678 hybrid masonry heater with the hot box and domestic hot water in the natural (unpainted finish) with light grey trims and castings. *"The beauty of the system is that it can be combined with my underfloor heating system and hot water supply utilising a 300 litre [Advanced Appliances](#) Universal Multifuel Thermal Store System accumulation tank"* Alex explained. *"the 678 has a purpose made water system which is simple, easy to install and a flexible add on to the system"*. The Advanced Appliances Thermal Store is fully integrated and pre-wired with a stainless-steel cylinder and allows for multiple fuelled system to be simultaneously connected.

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When asked why the Ecco Stove was chosen over a traditional stove Alex said *"We only light the E678 twice per day and it heats the entire house using only 8 Hotties pressed logs each day as opposed to just the room with more fuel and with more control over the heat. The room the stove is in remains a comfortable temperature while burning at a carbon neutral, environmentally friendly level."* Alex went on to add *"Hotties Heat logs are made from recycled wood which is a bonus"*. Using a dense, long burning fuel such as a Hottie Heat log combined with the 12 hour heat retention you can heat the home with only a small amount of fuel compared with other solid fuel heat sources.



"The green factor and carbon neutral heat source was an attraction"

Compared to a central heating system Alex said, *"The green factor, carbon neutral heat source again was an attraction. Living off the grid I can control all the heating I need using a range of sustainable fuels. The Ecco Stove will be built into a system for the house so that water can be generated all year round via the stove and a solar thermal system. In the winter once the flue temperature achieves 50°C the pump is activated pulling warm water from the stove into the main thermal store reducing the load on the LPG and Solar thermal system. This system also removes the need for a central heating system with a network of radiators which uses a large amount of energy. Unlike a central*

heating boiler stove, the E678 with DHW can also be run when dry without damaging the system as the boiler is not in the main chamber, this allows you to continue to get heat from your stove around the whole home even if the water has to be shut off in an emergency."

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The E678 can be installed on a pressurised or unpressurised system with the hot box option applying a large degree of flexibility. With the hot box taking heat from the top of the stove body only, heat to the home is not reduced and more importantly neither is the efficiency. With a conventional boiler stove the water running through the boiler in the combustion chamber absorbs critical combustion heat and stops the stove from achieving gasification temperatures. This means the stove releases high levels of particulates into the atmosphere and causes a build-up of tar and creosote in the chimney increasing maintenance and the risk of a chimney fire.

"I didn't believe him at first"

Lucy Gooby was unsure when Alex first explained the E678 would heat the home without radiators. *"I didn't believe him at first but when we were in our bedroom (upstairs and 20 metres away from the stove) after the installation I was surprised how well it had wafted the heat around the home". With two children a safer cooler surface is also an attractive feature. While the stove body gets hot it will not scald you instantly the way a metal stove would. "I am getting used to lighting the stove but so far it seems very simple", Lucy continued "The natural finish is lovely with the crystals in the material sparkling. We had to use the LPG quite heavily in the past with the two children so it will be interesting to see just how much fuel we save using the Ecco Stove this winter"*.



Alex already has information on their fuel usage over the last three years so will be comparing the fuel usage and the difference in heating they achieve this winter. Once the results are available we will post them here so LIKE our Facebook page to keep up to date with developments.

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"Full installation service available"

South West Fireplaces Ltd are HETAS registered engineers and offer a full installation service including plumbing works for Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. If you live in their area or elsewhere and have an interest in the Ecco Stove why not give them or our team a call and we can advise a guide to installation costs and arrange a survey or a call from Alex, your local Ecco Stove dealer or one of our own surveyors.

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