Freeze Protection

The Chofu Wood-Fired Heater must always be protected from freezing to prevent damage. We provide special through-wall ports with threaded plugs that allow you to keep water in the tub, while draining just the heater. To drain the heating unit, plugs must first be inserted into the ports; then remove the threaded drain plug at the rear/bottom of the heater to drain water out of the Chofu. It must be noted that firing up the Chofu when it is empty of water will quickly damage the heater. The Chofu water jacket must always be filled with water and the tub ports open to allow water to circulate through the water jacket and therefore, cool the firebox metal.

Alternative Freeze Protection Methods

• Drain the tub – This will remove about 2/3 of the water from the Chofu water jacket. The remaining water can be drained by removing the drain plug at the rear/bottom of the heater.

• Covering the Chofu – This method can be used instead of placing plugs in the through-wall ports and draining the Chofu, however, it requires that you make an insulated cover that can be placed over the Chofu.* This may be adequate protection for nighttime temperature drops just a little below freezing, but for long term protection, the enclosure must have an external heat source, such as a light bulb or heat tape. The tape can be wrapped around the bottom stainless circulating tube, causing heat to rise up through the water jacket and into the tub.

A protective cover may be either a soft insulated (tea cozy) type or a hard shell, wood structure. To provide complete freeze protection, the enclosure must snug up against the tub to protect the circulating pipes, as well as the heater.

*When the Chofu heater is not in use (and also to allow it to be covered), the stove pipe may be removed. This can be accomplished by lifting off the pipe at the connection between the black enameled collar and the stainless 4-inch pipe adapter. This connection has a very snug fit, thus does not need to be secured with sheet metal screws, as do all the other connections.

Chimney Cap and Stove Pipe Support Bracket

Secondary combustion in the Chofu Wood-Fired Heater eliminates most sparks; however, a chimney cap may be necessary when the heater is being used in a fire hazard area or when the stove pipe exhaust near trees.

Please Note: A chimney cap will cause a restriction in the air flow (draft) through the firebox, which will result in a slower heating rate. To compensate, an additional 2-ft length of stove pipe may be used to maintain an optimum draft.

8-ft of stove pipe is recommended for optimum draft. When all connections are secured with sheet metal screws (supplied with every Chofu), the pipe does not need support, however, if additional stove pipe or a chimney cap is used, the stove pipe will become top-heavy and must be stabilized by using a Stove Pipe Support Bracket. (See price list)