

How to Use the Walderhaus

Herzlich Willkommen at the Walderhaus



The Walderhaus was constructed in 1765 in the traditional Black Forest way using approx. 200 Black Forest firs. Since then it overviews the banks of the river Elz.

In order to make your stay comfortable we would like to instruct with this manual how to operate the oven and the other facilities of the Walderhaus. The house is heated by a historic tiled stove and a central heating oven both feed with wood. As the entire house is built in wood it is most important to be careful with fire. Please, instruct your children adequately. Walderhaus has survived more than 250 years and it would be great, if it would still exist times to come. Therefore, smoking and open fire and candles are not allowed in the Walderhaus.

Tiled Stove



The tiled stove has been remodelled in 2014 due to damage from overheating. Please therefore follow these instructions carefully:

Before lighting the fire in the stove the shutter on the upper right corner of the chimney must be pulled out fully (see picture left). You must not close this shutter as long the fire is burning. If the handle is pushed close during fire is burning smoke stays in the stove and may cause

a flash fire which may destroy the stove. Please inform all guests accompanying you:

- This historic type of stove (Grundofen) is typical for the Black Forest with a very high heat containment. It takes 3-4 hours to warm it up. This period of time cannot be shortened by adding more wood. After that warming-up period the stove keeps warm for more than 24 hours.

- Put the wood logs parallel to each other in the middle of the stove and pile the logs up to the entire height of the stove. Do not forget to make a nest of small chopped kindling wood in front of the pile and inflame with paper. Do not use chemical inflammators or burn plastics or other waist, as the stove is used for baking as well.
- Close the stove door and leave the lower air door fully open. Let the wood burn down entirely, do not add wood in the mean time. When after approx. 2 -3 hours the flames are completely extinct, close the lower shutter of the stove door. You must not add new logs at any time.
- Than, when the pile has burned down entirely (no flames are to be seen any more) you may close the upper shutter of the chimney (see first picture).
- The stove heat now reaches ist maximum, adding more wood does not help. Please fire the stove the second time not before the next day.

The stove gets very hot. Never put something on or in the stove. Do not hang clothes or other things so close that they touch the stove: plastic will melt and clothes will burn. Instruct all persons accompanying you! Use dry wood only to fire the stove which you will find in the woodshed outside the facility room. Please notice the signs which say which wood is dry and which may not be used yet. Please use firewood economically.

Please keep doors and windows closed in order to have a warm and cosy house. Before going to bed you may open the wooden tap in the floor in the bedroom above the living room in order to let the warm air up.

Have fun with the cosy radiation heat from this oldstyle black forest Grundofen.

Wood Oven in the Kitchen



The central heating and the additional hot water is heated by the wood oven in the kitchen. To start the fire first make sure that the air lid on the left hand upper corner of the hearth is fully opened, i. e. turn it fully to the right position. As long as a fire is burning in the oven the lid must not be closed. Whenever the lid is closed while fire is burning there is the risk of a flash fire or smoke may fill the kitchen. Instruct all persons accompanying you!

When the fire is burning well the position of the shutter should be parallel to the left wall.



To light a fire please open the lid of the fire room on top of the oven. Pile up in the front corner approx. 10 pieces of kindling wood in form of a pyramid and set a nest of paper below. Then open the tin door in the front of the oven pull the locking handle of the door into the upright position and open first this door and then behind the door the shutter to the fire room (see arrow).

Make sure to remove ashes from the last fire. For that purpose use the fire hook at the left hand of the hearth and remove the ashes down through the grill. If the ash tray is full of ashes please empty the ashes into the tin ash container. You will find the tin ash container leaving the house through the facility room and then behind the door on the right side. Make sure to never fill burning or glowing ashes into the container.

Now put below the pyramid of small wood 3 to 4 crushed paper and inflame. Close the fire room shutter but leave the oven door open. When the kindling wood burns decently fill the fire room from above through the shutter on the top of the oven with dry logs. After about 15 minutes when the fire burns decently, close the front door and the tin front cover of the oven.

The oven must only be operated after the central water valve has been opened. You will find that valve in the facility room left side of the entrance door. It is open when the yellow is in perpendicular position (showing either straight upwards or straight downwards)..

Do not overheat the oven. The thermostat above the oven in the kitchen shall not exceed a temperature of 65° Celsius. If the oven becomes too hot a safety valve opens cold water in order to cool the oven. This valve operates loud and knocks to remind you of the overheated oven.

It takes approx. 3 - 4 hours to warm up the water in the boiler in the facility room. After that temperature is reached the central heating system will be feed with hot water.

The Walderhaus is equipped with an additional electric waterheating system. Hot water for shower and dish washing is available without maintaining a fire in the oven. In case the display of the electric waterheating system (behind the door to the facility room is dead, please shut of the main fuses in the fuse panel upstairs.

Additional Things to Know

Fire Safety

Fire extinguishers are in the entrance hall below the staircase and in the second floor before the door to the balcony. Show these locations to everybody in the house. The roof has a wooden shingle tiling; it will burn very easy. Open fire and smoking is strictly forbidden in the Walderhaus. If you want to barbecue please obey a security distance of 15 m to the house.

Electric Heating in the Servants Chamber

The servant's chamber is heated with an electric heater. Please do not cover this heater with anything. Do not use it to dry clothes.

Garbage

Please use the blue or green plastic sacks for garbage. Please separate garbage and dispose reusable materials as plastic and metals in the yellow sacks. The "waste separation station" for reusable materials is in the storage room behind the kitchen. Please store fully packed and closed garbage sacks in the green plastic container in the compartment before the stone wall at the hill side of the Walderhaus.

Departure

Please take your food supplies with you at your departure. Please give us notice if any damages have occurred. Please pay your phone bill. Please leave the house as clean as you found it at your arrival and deposit the key again under the bench.

Electric currency

The main electricity switch board is in the first floor on the left wall side.

Water

The Walderhaus receives its fresh water from an own water source. The source is 500 meters above the house in the "Becherer Dobel". The water has drinking water quality. The main water valve is in the facility room on the left side on the wall behind the entrance door. The valve is open when the yellow handle is in upright or downright position. Please help to save water especially in summer times.

Liquid Manure Pit

Parents are asked to take special care for their children. They should not play around or on the old farmhouse liquid manure pit. Parents will be held liable for damages caused from their children. Keep in mind, that the river Elz can become very dangerous with strong currents during high water periods.

Phone

Address and phone number of the Walderhaus are: Walderhaus, Elzbach 1 78136 Schonach /Rohrhardsberg , Tel: +49-7682-924001. The closest mobile phone access is below Gasthaus Rossle (approx. 4 km down the valley).