

Further Reading

Fuel Used in the Home

Advantages and Disadvantages of different fuels

Wood

Advantages

1. It is relatively cheap
2. Readily available in the rural areas.
3. It does not require expensive equipment to use.

Disadvantages

Difficult to collect during the rainy season.

Charcoal

Advantages.

Can be used for cooking, heating and as abrasive.

Disadvantages

1. Produces smoke and blackens cooking utensils.
2. Carbon monoxide produced can cause death.
3. Not clean in usage and storage.

Gas

Advantages

1. Clean to use
2. It is portable
3. Quick to light.

Disadvantages

1. It is expensive therefore unaffordable to many people
2. Leaking gas is poisonous and can explode.

Paraffin

Advantages

1. It is fairly affordable
2. It is quick to light and use.
3. It is easily stored

Disadvantages

1. It can cause fire
2. It has an unpleasant smell.
3. It may produce soot which stains equipment

Electricity

Advantages

1. Clean and quick to use.
2. It does not require storage space

Disadvantages

1. Expensive to install, use and maintain.
2. Electrical appliances are expensive.

Biogas

Advantages

1. Clean to use
2. Quick to light and easy to use
3. Its renewable source of energy which does not damage the environment.

Disadvantages

1. The initial cost of installing the production unit is expensive
2. It has a bad smell so should be used in well ventilated room.

Solar

Advantages

1. It is renewable source of energy and readily available
2. Cheap to produce
3. It is clean and quick to use.
4. Does not require much storage

Disadvantages

1. During cloudy and rainy season there may be inadequate solar energy
2. The initial cost of installation may be unaffordable to majority of people

Conserving Energy

1. Use energy when required
2. Use energy efficient devices
3. Cheap methods of supply of energy should be used
4. The houses should be well ventilated
5. Cover cooking pots with fitting lids
6. Use pressure cookers where possible to shorten cooking