

## Pellets by Theurl (wood pellets for heating)

### Warnings and safety information

Thank you for choosing wood pellets by Theurl. This information sheet contains important information regarding the risks associated with the storage of pellets and must be read carefully and observed prior to delivery.

#### **Product description and use**

Theurl wood pellets are a standardised, organic fuel made from spruce wood (sawdust, shavings, wood chips). During production, small amounts of organic additives (plant starch or flour) are added to improve flow properties in the production process.

The pellets comply with the ENplus A1 quality standard.

Wood pellets must only be burned in approved and properly maintained stoves, and must only be stored in designated and suitably equipped storage areas (see section 'Proper storage'). Before a delivery of pellets, the heating system must be switched off by the operator (homeowner).

#### **Potential hazards**

Wood pellets can pose hazards, particularly if stored or used improperly:

##### Health hazards due to toxic emissions

- Natural decomposition processes during storage can produce carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons (even when the heating system is not in operation).
- **If storage rooms are inadequately ventilated, life-threatening levels of carbon monoxide can accumulate. Even in dangerous concentrations, carbon monoxide is colourless, tasteless and odourless. Storage rooms must therefore always be adequately ventilated and must always be aired before entering.** In addition, suitable **carbon monoxide detectors** must be installed and / or worn on the person when entering storage rooms.
- As with any combustion process, the burning of wood pellets produces toxic exhaust gases. Unsuitable, defective or improperly maintained heating systems can cause fires or dangerous concentrations of exhaust gases indoors.

### Fire and explosion hazard

- Wood pellets are a fuel and are therefore flammable.
- Damp pellets can trigger a biological decomposition process, causing a rise in temperature that may lead to spontaneous combustion.
- There is a risk of explosion if a cloud of fine dust particles comes into contact with an ignition source.

### Health hazards due to dust formation and loose pellets:

- Coughing, dry throat when inhaling dust
- Risk of allergic reactions upon skin contact
- Risk of irritation to the eyes and respiratory tract
- Risk of slipping due to loose pellets on the floor

### **Measures to prevent and manage hazards**

#### Proper storage

Wood pellets must only be stored in storage rooms specifically designed and equipped for this purpose. Details and further information on correct storage can be found online at <https://www.propellets.at/pellet-lagerung>.

**Storage rooms must always be adequately ventilated to the outside and must always be ventilated before entering.** In addition, suitable **carbon monoxide detectors** must be installed or worn on the person when entering storage rooms.

**Warning signs** indicating the dangers of carbon monoxide must be displayed at the entrances to storage rooms. **Storage rooms must be kept locked;** persons with access must be instructed regarding the dangers (in particular those posed by carbon monoxide poisoning).

Pellets must be stored in a dry place to prevent them from swelling due to moisture. Contact with oxidising agents and drying oils must be avoided. Keep away from sources of ignition; in particular, smoking and open flames are prohibited in storage areas.

When sieving fine particles, it is recommended to use an exhaust air and filter system to minimise dust exposure.

#### First aid measures in the event of inhalation of toxic gases (especially carbon monoxide):

If, whilst in a hazardous area (pellet silo, adjacent rooms), symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, nausea, or loss of coordination or mobility occur, **there is a risk to life.** The area must **be vacated immediately** and medical assistance sought (call the emergency services).

The area may only **be re-entered** with appropriate **protective equipment** (respiratory protection, portable warning device) and must be ventilated whilst ensuring personal safety (e.g. from outside or by fire service personnel with proper training and protective gear).

**Injured (unconscious) persons may only be rescued from the danger zone whilst ensuring personal safety (call the emergency services before rescue operations, wear respiratory protection (dust mask is not a sufficient protection)). In the event of unconsciousness or respiratory or cardiac arrest, the appropriate first aid measures (call the emergency services, place the person in the recovery position, perform artificial respiration and chest compressions) must be carried out after rescue from the danger zone.**

#### Fire-fighting measures

Wood pellets swell on contact with water and expand significantly in volume. Inert gases, preferably nitrogen, are used to smother fires in enclosed silos. Due to the expansion on contact with water, extinguishing with water in enclosed spaces should be avoided. Where possible, burning and unburned pellets should be removed by fire service personnel and extinguished with water in an open area or smothered by covering them with foam or sand. In an emergency, decisions on this matter are always the responsibility of the incident commander.

#### Measures in the event of accidental release

Small quantities of dust or loose pellets can be removed using standard household vacuum cleaners or brooms. If dust is generated, wearing a dust mask (P2) is recommended.

In particular, steps, escape routes and similar areas must be kept free of pellet contamination (risk of slipping).

In the event of contact with mucous membranes (mouth, nose, eyes), thorough rinsing with water is recommended.

However, compliance with the warnings and measures listed in this information sheet cannot replace a **properly maintained storage area** or the **regular maintenance and correct adjustment of the heating system**. Responsibility for the storage area and heating system lies with the respective operator of the heating system or the storage facility.

#### **Manufacturer's contact details:**

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