



POST OF 08/07/2026

Slagging: The surface determines the cleaning interval

Whether a biomass plant has to be cleaned every four weeks or twice a season is not primarily decided by the fuel — but by the surface on which the ash lands.

Alkalis from the fuel form low-melting compounds with the silica in simple fireclay: the surface vitrifies, becomes sticky, and every further layer of ash builds up faster. A dense, high-alumina surface, by contrast, gives build-up little to hold on to.

Levers against slagging

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| ☐ Material class | high-alumina instead of standard fireclay in the build-up zones — less surface for alkalis to attack |
| ☐ Surface density | dense, smooth execution; every pore and open joint is an anchor point for build-up |
| ☐ Report fuel changes | waste wood and landscape-maintenance material bring more alkalis than forest wood chips — the zones move |
| ☐ Gentle cleaning | mechanical, but with judgement: knocking off the build-up together with the surface accelerates the next accumulation |
| ☐ Findings per cleaning | document the thickness and location of the build-up — this produces the map of the real problem zones |
| ☐ Targeted upgrading | upgrade only the build-up zones; the whole chamber in premium quality is rarely necessary |

*Build-up forming on the lining**Ash and slag attack chemically and mechanically*

Common mistakes

- The same spot after every cleaning, yet the material question is never asked — cleaning is accepted as a law of nature.
- Aggressive knocking off: the new, rougher surface shortens the next interval further.
- The fuel range has changed, the lining has not — the plant runs with yesterday's lining.

PRACTICAL NOTE

Convert a cleaning interval into money (shutdown + personnel + loss of output). Against that figure, upgrading the two or three genuine build-up zones is almost always a short conversation.

Questions about your furnace?

We assess lining, zones and condition — with a reply within 24 hours on working days.

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