*over 1500L of steam*) **So this water elimination should be done before the outer shell render is applied.**

Use the seven fires in seven days method.

This process is important

Start with a very small fire in the centre of the oven, using small sticks only. If this first fire has flames touching the top of the oven for too long, then the fire is too big. Repeat this the next day, making the fire a little bigger and of course it will burn for a little longer. Repeat this procedure for seven fires getting progressively bigger and longer.

Heat beads are a good way of getting gentle heat into the oven, so ***as well as the wood,*** ***add one handful on Day1, 2 on Day2, 3on Day3 etc****.*

(*You will probably notice dampness of the insulation layer as you heat the oven. This is normal and indicates that the oven is drying itself out. These damp patches will feel hotter to touch. This is a good indication of how the heat can pass more easily through wet material. Your oven will be far more efficient once it is properly dry. Some 50 litres of water has gone into the construction of the oven and considerable fuel is required to convert it to water vapour .Be careful- don’t be tempted to build up the fire too much, but try to keep those coals burning as long as possible- all night if you can)*

This process is a bit laborious and goes through quite a lot of fuel. However, once properly dry you will be amazed at how little fuel your oven will use- around 4-5 Kg to get to temp. and that energy will be captured for hours of useful cooking time.

By all means use the heat you’ve generated to do some cooking. Maybe a loaf or two of bread, a roast, marshmallows or pastries etc. But don’t attempt to get up to pizza temperature yet. (*You can test if moisture is still present by placing some plastic on the outside and seeing if moisture is collecting there*.)

***Driving off the moisture***

**Day 1: 1 sheet newspaper and half a dozen small sticks, 1 h’ful of heat beads (about 5 mins of flame)**

**Day 2: 1 sheet of newspaper and about 10 thicker sticks, 2 h’fuls of heat beads (about 10 mins of flame)**

**Day 3: Bigger sticks, plus 3 h’fuls of h’beads (about 15 mins of flame)**

**Day 4: More wood, plus 4 h’fuls of heat beads (30 mins of flame)**

**Day 5: wood plus 5 hfuls of h’beads (45 mins of flame)**

**Day 6: wood plus 6 h’fuls of h’beads (1 hr of flame)**

**Day 7: wood plus 7 h’fuls of h’beads (1 ½ hrs of flame**

**If all has gone to plan the black soot should have burnt away entirely from the inside of the dome. If there is a persistent ring of black around the base of the dome, proceed with more fires.**