



WARM HOME. SAFE HOME FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS.



Don't Let the Good Fires Bring on a Bad One. No one wants to ever experience a chimney fire or worse yet, a fire in the chimney that spreads into the home. There are over 25,000 Chimney Fires per year in the US, causing over 125 million dollars in property damage. This is an important issue and there are things that you can do to protect yourself from the chances of a chimney fire affecting your home or your family.

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Regardless if you burn wood or gas, have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Never restrict air supply to fireplaces.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

- Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.
- Cover the chimney with an appropriate chimney cap or spark arrester.
- Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

WORKING ALARMS SAVE LIVES

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