



Fireplace Maintenance

During the fall and winter seasons, many of us enjoy curling up in front of a warm fireplace. Whether you use a wood burning, gas, or electric fireplace, if not cleaned and maintained each poses danger to you and your family. These safety tips and recommendations will help keep you, and your family, safe while using a fireplace.



Chimney and Wood-Burning Fireplaces

Have a professional clean your chimney on an annual basis.

Inspect the chimney cap as it prevents wildlife, rain, and debris from getting into the chimney.

If the mesh around the cap becomes clogged, smoke may be forced back into your home.

Gas Burning Fireplaces

Annually hire a licensed gas technician who will inspect vents for damage and diagnose any leaks or malfunctions.

Before using, check the firebox, gas logs, and gas lines for damage or excessive wear.

During warmer months, the gas main valve should be shut off, key removed from its outlet, and the pilot light extinguished. Alternatively, keeping the pilot light burning will help keep the fireplace free of humidity.

Do not alter or rearrange the logs in a gas fireplace. Logs that become misplaced during cleaning should be put back into proper alignment by a licensed gas technician.

Clean the coals, logs, or stones by taking them outside, using manufacturer recommended cleansers, and scrubbing them with a soft brush.

Vacuum the dust and other debris from the firebox.

Clean the glass partition with an ammonia-free window cleaner.



Electric Fireplaces

Check the wiring components to make sure they are in good condition

During warmer months, unplug the unit as a safety precaution.

Clean the inside and outside of the fireplace using normal housecleaning tools and solutions.

Use a small vacuum (or can of compressed air) to clean the interior.



Safety While Using Your Fireplace

Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home near bedroom areas.

Never leave any fire unattended, even one in your fireplace.

Supervise children and pets when using your fireplace. Set up barriers around your fireplace. Install glass doors to keep them from falling into the fire as well as a mesh metal screen in front of the hearth to keep them from getting too close.

Build your fire slowly. Add more wood as it heats.

Keep the damper (a small flap inside the flue that can be adjusted manually to allow smoke to escape), closed when it is not in use.

