

Woodburning Safety Checklist

YES NO

Stove

- Checked stove for cracks and signs of overheating.
- Repaired and replaced all damaged parts.
- Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwoods.
- Stove is placed on a non-combustible surface which extends at least 18" on all sides of the stove.
- Store ashes in an approved airtight metal container on a non-combustible surface.

Stovepipes

- Fastened all pipe joints with at least 3 sheetmetal screws.
- Check my stovepipe(s) monthly and clean as needed.
- Clearance between stovepipe(s) and combustible materials is at least 18"
- Replaced all corroded and heat damaged stove pipes.
- My approved all-fuel metal or clay wall thimble is installed per manufacturer's recommendations.

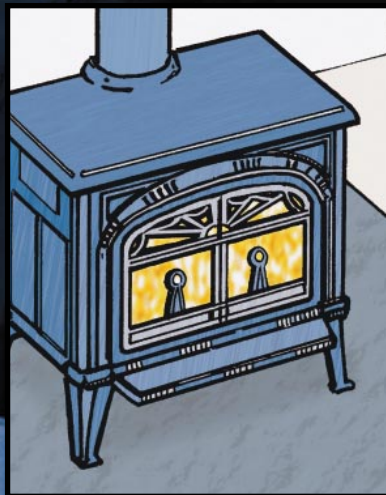
Chimney

- Checked chimney for cracks and creosote accumulation before the heating season.
- Cleaned chimney myself or had it done by a professional chimney sweep.
- Marked calendar to schedule future chimney cleanings.
- Clean chimney at least once each heating season. *(More frequent cleaning is needed if you burn wood regularly!)*
- Inspected chimney liner for cracks.

If you answered "no" to any of these questions please stop using your woodstove until all deficiencies are repaired!

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Woodstove Safety Procedures



The leading cause of woodstove fires is *inexperience!*

Woodstove related fires kill many people needlessly each year. You can prevent such fires in your home or business by implementing regular safety checks and adhering to common sense operating procedures.

Preventive maintenance, combined with safe wood burning techniques, will greatly reduce your chances of having a fire. You and your family should sleep better knowing your woodstove installation is safe.

Understanding the "do's and don't's" of safe wood burning makes all the difference!

Choosing your wood

It is very important to know how to choose the right wood for your stove. There is a large difference between "good" wood and "bad" wood. Make sure you only burn dry and well-seasoned "good" hardwoods.

Good hardwoods to burn:

- Oak • Ash • Apple
- Maple • Hickory • Hardhack
- Beech, and most other hardwoods

Avoid low quality hardwoods such as willow, butternut, poplar and basswood.

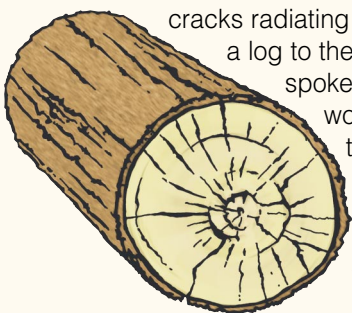
Avoid burning softwoods such as:

- Pine • Spruce • Tamarack
- Hemlock, and other softwoods

These woods often contain lots of pitch and create a creosote problem for your stovepipe and chimney. They also burn fast and have a low heating value. These qualities make them undesirable for use in your woodstove.

When properly cured, high quality hardwoods will heat your home efficiently with a minimum of maintenance problems. Proper curing means your wood has been air dried for at least 6 months and, preferably, up to 1 year.

You can tell seasoned wood by the tell-tale cracks radiating from the center of a log to the outside edge like spokes in a wheel. Such wood will also provide the best heating efficiently. Unseasoned or "green" wood does not show this type of pattern.



Maintaining your chimney

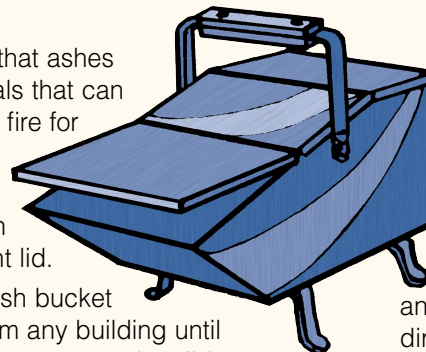
No chimney is "self-cleaning"! You must either clean it yourself on a regular basis or have it cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. Check your chimney for cracks and creosote build-up before each heating season. Then mark your calendar for the next scheduled maintenance date. What is the life of a chimney? Just one chimney fire! After a chimney fire you must have your chimney inspected by a competent mason or professional chimney sweep.

Storing your ashes

The incorrect storage of ashes causes many fires each year. This type of fire is easy to prevent. Here are some common sense rules you must follow:

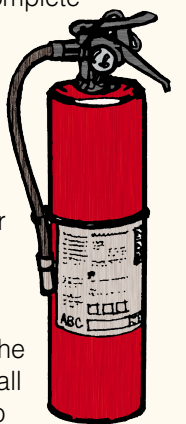
1. Be aware of the fact that ashes contain pieces of coals that can stay hot and cause a fire for up to a week!
2. Store ashes only in an certified metal ash bucket with an airtight lid.
3. Put ashes stored in ash bucket outside and away from any building until completely cold or on a non-combustible surface such as a concrete floor.
4. Cardboard boxes, paper bags, or any open container should never, under any circumstances, be used to store ashes.

Be safe and prevent ash-related fires in your home.



Installing fire extinguishers

No woodstove installation is complete without a nearby fire extinguisher ready for any emergencies. We recommend an ABC rated dry chemical fire extinguisher with a capacity of at least 5 lbs. for each floor in your home. In addition, you should also have a fire extinguisher located close to your woodstove. Businesses may need more and larger extinguishers, or those with specific chemicals depending on the nature of the business. Make sure all members of the family know how to use them during an emergency.



Smoke alarms save lives!

Install at least one 120 volt AC operated smoke alarm with a back-up battery for each floor in your home. For the average home 3 to 5 smoke alarms are considered adequate. These reliable and highly sensitive units, which are wired directly into your electrical system, save many lives each year. Always install a smoke alarm close to each wood burning stove. Avoid the battery operated variety as they need regular maintenance to be effective.

