



Always Safely Operate Your Fireplace and Stove

- Burn only DRY, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets. Wet wood (from your yard) will generate more smoke and soot buildup.
- Be certain the damper is OPEN and properly functioning before use. Do not close until all coals are out and cold.
- NEVER use starter fluid, paper, or any other accelerant other than those specifically designed for your type of appliance.
- CLEAN the inside of your stove or fireplace periodically. Remove ashes after each use.
- Allow ashes to COOL before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.
- NEVER LEAVE a fire in the fireplace unattended. Make sure it is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house. If you leave the room while the fire is burning or the fireplace is still hot, take your small child with you.
- Have your chimney and fireplace/stove INSPECTED and cleaned by a certified professional regularly. Depending on use, this may be needed annually.
- COMMUNICATE to children as early as possible the dangers of fires and the heat generated from them. Keep a CLOSE EYE on children whenever a fireplace or stove is being used. Remind them to stay at least 3 feet away.
- MAINTAIN SPACE. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Minimize your child's chance of burns from the hot glass front of some fireplaces. USE safety screens to reduce the risk of burns.
- Put fireplace tools and accessories OUT OF REACH of a young child. Also, remove any lighters and matches.
- INSTALL and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect the CO alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.
- INSTALL and maintain smoke alarms on EVERY level of your home, outside each separate sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect the alarms. When one sounds, they all sound. TEST all smoke alarms at least monthly. Replace if 10-years old. If battery only, use only internal 10-year battery.
- KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER NEARBY.

There are many additional resources available regarding fire safety. A live fire inside of your home should never be taken lightly and every precaution should be exercised for safe use and enjoyment.