

WOOD BURNING STOVES

Many people use a wood burning stove for much of their central heating during winter. The wood stove should be placed on a floor pad at least one metre away from walls, furniture, curtains, and other flammable materials. Similarly, anything that can burn must be kept at a safe distance away from the stove.

Wood stoves must be used with caution to avoid accidental fires and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE
- ASH ACCUMULATION
- FIRE BURNING SAFETY
- SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

WOOD BURNING STOVES



Chimney Maintenance

The chimney is a critical component of the stove because it is the outlet for all the smoke that is produced by the fire.

- The best time to sweep the chimney would be at the end of a season.
- Always start the cleaning from the inside and when the oven is cold.
- If the chimney hasn't been cleaned for several years or you don't know how to clean a wood stove chimney from the bottom up, get the services of a professional to get things done.

Check the Oven for Ash Accumulation

Proper wood stove maintenance also entails regularly cleaning the oven. Ash can accumulate inside the chamber because of the circulation of gases during secondary combustion. Check the interior with a flashlight and look for any signs of buildup before it becomes an issue.

- Use an ash pan and brush to remove all the ash, dirt and debris, but be careful not to kick up dust in the process.
- A wood stove cleaning kit that includes tools specifically developed for wood burning stoves can help you accomplish the job faster.

Keep Fires Burning Safely

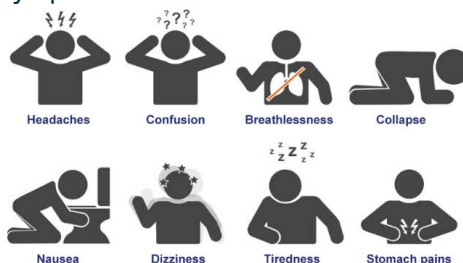
- When starting a fire, only use a match or commercial firelighter. Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Only use dry wood in your wood stove. Wet wood can increase creosote buildup, which can lead to chimney fires.
- Do not burn plastic because it can release toxic chemicals and cause damage to your chimney, fireplace or wood stove.
- Never burn a Christmas tree in your wood stove as the sparks from the burning needles can increase the risk for a chimney fire. Also, do not burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper or trash.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Before leaving the house or going to bed, you should make certain to fully extinguish the fire.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them — ashes can take several days to cool completely. Never empty ashes directly into a trash can. Instead, place ashes in a covered metal container located at least 10 feet away from your home and any other building.

Keep the Inside of Your Home Safe with Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

To help make your winter even safer, we recommend that you take the time to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

- A smoke detector is the most effective way to detect smoke from a fire and signal an alarm so that you can get you and your family out safely.
- A carbon monoxide detector can alert you to the buildup of this dangerous odourless and colourless gas.
- Test detectors monthly, and after you change the batteries to ensure they work properly.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



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