

Fire Prevention Tips for Hearth Appliances

Make sure your Hearth Appliance habits are safe and will not pose a danger to your home or your neighbourhood.

FOR WOOD & PELLET HEARTH APPLIANCES

Set-up Tips for Wood & Pellet Appliances

- Always use a Hearth Appliance screen.
- Parents may want to consider installing a fire-resistant hearth guard (cushioned strip). Keep non fire-resistant materials such as pillows, sheets or rugs well away.
- Have a cap installed at the top of the chimney to avoid the possibility that debris or animals can block the chimney

Using Your Wood & Pellet Appliance

- Keep wood stacked with top covered [air must be able to circulate around the fuel to properly dry it], and out-of-doors, away from the house and off the ground.
- Never overload the Hearth Appliance with too many logs. Don't use the Hearth Appliance as an incinerator, and never burn garbage, Christmas trees, or piles of paper.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the Hearth Appliance, preferably on a grate.
- Never leave fire unattended. Be sure the fire is extinguished before you go to bed or leave the house.
- Make a fire that fits your Hearth Appliance. A fire that's too large or too hot not only wastes fuel, it can crack your chimney.
- Read and follow the label when using fire logs. Don't poke or break manufactured logs. This will cause them to crack apart, releasing their energy at a high rate and resulting in a shorter burn time. Fire logs perform best when burned on a supporting Hearth Appliance grate with a maximum of three to four inches of space between support bars.
- If your Hearth Appliance is equipped with glass doors, leave them open while burning a fire log to allow proper draught and cleaner burning. Once you're sure the fire is extinguished, close the damper and glass doors to retain warm air inside the house.

- Never start a fire using an accelerant.
- Clean out the ashes regularly.
- Store the ashes in a non- combustible container with a tight fitting lid, and keep it at a safe distance from the house
- Don't close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning
- Choose the right fuel. In general, hardwood firewood (oak, madrone, hickory, ash, etc.) burns cleaner than softwood firewood (fir, pine, cedar, etc.).
- Use seasoned wood, wood with a moisture content of less than 20 percent, burns much cleaner than green (high moisture content) wood. Check with your cordwood supplier to make sure that the wood you purchase is seasoned.
- Burn smartly. Good Hearth Appliance habits can decrease fuel consumption in the home while maintaining the same level of warmth. Make sure the fire gets enough air to burn properly. Close the damper when the fire is out to keep warm room air inside.

Maintenance for Your Wood & Pellet Appliance

- Clear the area around the Hearth Appliance and chimney. Check the flue for obstructions like birds' nests, and trim any overhanging branches or large trees near the chimney.
- Have your wood Hearth Appliance inspected annually and cleaned when necessary by a chimney sweep certified by WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer). A dirty Hearth Appliance can cause chimney fires and inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue.
- Keep your Hearth Appliance in good working condition. If you notice any cracks in the chimney, and any loose mortar or brick, have your chimney repaired. Have the chimney liner inspected for cracking or deterioration.