

Thurston County Development Services Chimney Safety



Chimney & Fire Safety

You should follow a few simple steps to ensure a pleasant and safe burning season.

1. Always operate your heating appliance according to the manufacturers recommendations. This includes the proper use and maintenance of manufacturer designed screens, tools, etc.
2. Always use the proper fuel. Soft or wet wood can cause excessive creosote buildup and increase the chance of chimney fires.
3. Operate your appliance at its optimum temperature level. Overfiring can cause severe damage to your appliance and chimney components. Underfiring can increase the deposits of creosote in the chimney and increase the chance of chimney fires.
4. ALWAYS have your appliance and chimney components inspected and cleaned annually. Almost all chimney fires can be avoided with annual cleaning and maintenance.
5. Install a chimney cap and spark arrestor on your chimney to avoid fires and water damage as well as keeping animals and birds out of your chimney. Even a small animal nesting in a chimney can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to be present in the home.
6. Reline or repair damaged chimneys immediately. Never risk your home and health by using a chimney that has been damaged by rain or fire. There are many affordable options available for chimney repairs and the cost is covered under most home owners insurance policies.
7. Be aware of your conditions. A black mask above your fireplace is a good indication that there is improper draft and possibly unsafe levels of carbon monoxide in the home.

<http://www.ncsg.org> (LINK)

<http://www.csia.org> (LINK)