

Fireplace Safety Tips to Prepare for Winter



Safely enjoy the crackling of a warm fire this winter. Use these chimney cleaning and other fireplace maintenance tips to help you avoid fireplace mishaps.

Chimney

Install a mesh screen cap over the top of the chimney.

Call a certified chimney specialist to inspect and clean your chimney or wood stove annually.

Flue

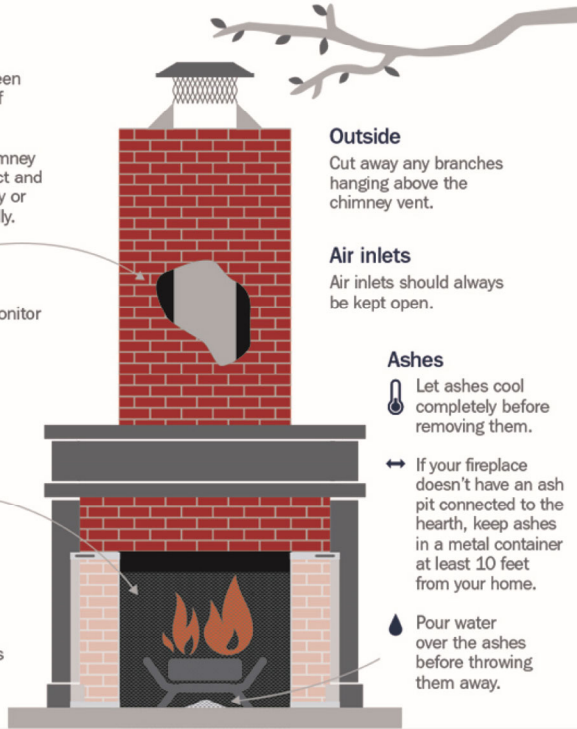
Use a stovepipe thermometer to monitor flue temperature.

Mesh gates

When the glass doors are open, close the mesh screen to keep embers from escaping.

Hearth

The hearth should be completely clear of any debris, decorations or clutter.



Outside

Cut away any branches hanging above the chimney vent.

Air inlets

Air inlets should always be kept open.

Ashes

Let ashes cool completely before removing them.

If your fireplace doesn't have an ash pit connected to the hearth, keep ashes in a metal container at least 10 feet from your home.

Pour water over the ashes before throwing them away.

Doors

Open or closed? Depends.

Starting fire



OPEN – air helps start the fire

During fire



CLOSED – keeps fire contained and allows fan to heat your home



OPEN – adds to the fireplace experience, but requires more supervision

Finishing fire



CLOSED – helps keep air in the chimney from entering your home



36% Home fires caused by fireplaces annually in rural areas

Other Tips



Never leave a fireplace unattended.



Always have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and a fire extinguisher nearby.



Never burn trash or accelerants in your fireplace.



30 ft



Always keep firewood at least 30 feet from your home.