



Woodburning Fireplace Use and Care

A fireplace can be a wonderful source of enjoyment for your home. However, if used improperly can result in injury to people and property. We offer this as general information.

All chimneys should have a bird/animal guard installed at the top. Sometimes these are visible from the ground but many times they are not. If you hear a bird in the chimney be sure the damper is shut and call Home Rental immediately.

It is a good idea to keep a type ABC fire extinguisher near the fireplace.

The fireplace screen should be used any time you have a fire, to keep any sparks from flying out. Glass doors should be shut anytime no one will be watching the fire.

Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet away from the fireplace.

Arrange the andirons so logs can't roll out.

Avoid having "roaring" fires. Use only enough logs to keep the fire at the desired temperature.

Do not use gasoline or other flammable liquids to kindle or rekindle a fire because the flammable vapors can explode. Never use fuels near a fire, explosive vapors can travel the length of a room.

Keep the damper open while the logs are burning to provide for efficient burning and to prevent accumulation of poisonous or explosive gasses.

Never burn Christmas tree greens or cardboard. They cause many sparks when burning and can cause a chimney fire.

Do not use coal, charcoal, or polystyrene packaging in a fireplace.

Do not treat artificial logs (made from sawdust and wax) the same way you treat real wood logs. Use only one at a time. If you use more, they can produce too much heat for some fireplaces to withstand.

Keep children away from the fire because their clothing can easily ignite. Warn the entire family about this hazard.

Make sure everyone in the house is familiar with the warning signs of a chimney fire....sucking sounds, a loud roar and shaking pipes. Instruct everyone on what to do in case of a fire. Practice fire drills and instruct all adults on how and when to use a fire extinguisher. Put the fire department phone number in an obvious place near the phone.

Be sure that all ashes have thoroughly cooled before you dispose of them. Put ashes in a lidded metal container to prevent a possible fire and provide a sturdy place to store them. Ashes make good fertilizer in gardens and flowerbeds.

Be sure the fire is out before retiring for the evening. It is best to close the glass doors on the fireplace (if you have them) any time there will be no one in the room to watch the fire.