

Why Trust Anyone Else?

Bask in the Glow of Fireplace Safety

Keep the home fire burning; just be sure to do it safely. Here are some tips.

- Remember to open the flue on the fireplace before starting the fire.
- Equip the fireplace with a metal screen to catch burning embers or shifting logs.
- Keep combustible objects a minimum of three feet away from any fireplace.
- If the fireplace is gas operated, be sure to move the gas valve to the "closed" position when you are not using it.
- If the fireplace is gas operated, be sure to remove the key, if it has one, and place it on the mantle when not in use.
- Never use a fireplace for grilling food or burning holiday wrappings.

Chimney Safety and Maintenance

- Protect the chimney top with a spark-arrester screen. This should help keep animals out and prevent burning embers from escaping and landing on nearby combustibles or landscaping, which could ignite.
- Have annual chimney inspections and cleanings. How much is your life and that of your family worth? Inspect the chimney and cap for cracks on an annual basis. If repairs are necessary, have them performed by a reputable contractor.
- If your chimney has clay tiles, make sure you bring the fire up slowly to prevent cracking of the flue. A cold chimney could crack with sudden heat.



Storing and using firewood

- Keep firewood at least 16" away from the house, further away is better. Stacked firewood promotes rodent and critter intrusion along with many forms of insects. Use caution when bringing firewood into the house and make sure insects are not being carried into the home. Yes we do have termites, powder post beetles, and carpenter ants in Wisconsin.
- Only use seasoned hardwood, this will keep the creosote to a minimum and will be easier to clean the chimney