

Why Trust Anyone Else?

Sharing Chimneys

Sharing Chimney Flues, a dangerous situation!

A wood-burning stove or fireplace is always required to have its own, unshared flue. This is largely because there is no practical way to connect another wood, gas or oil appliance to that flue without causing air infiltration into the flue through the second appliance, its connector pipe, or thimble fitting. Air infiltration slows the rate of exhaust travel up the flue while simultaneously cooling the wood exhaust gases, causing excessive creosote, condensation, and an increased potential for chimney fires. The codebook is quite clear on this point: "every wood-burning appliance must have its own flue."

When dealing with oil exhaust intrusion into a chimney venting wood exhaust, other factors come into play. The sulphuric acids contained in oil exhaust blend with the aldehydes found in wood exhaust to create an extremely corrosive mixture inside the flue. This mixture attacks both the bonding agent in the mortar and the actual chimney structure itself, drastically reducing the usable life of the chimney.

Finally, the combination of oil soot and wood creosote in the flue present the most dangerous of chimney fire hazards; oil soot ignites at extremely low temperatures, and wood creosote burns at extremely high temperatures. When ignited, this mixture can "spit" burning balls of oily creosote out of the top of the chimney in every direction. Thus, a chimney flue that is coated with a combination of oil exhaust and wood exhaust deposits is more likely to experience repeated chimney fires, and those

fires are much more likely to destroy the chimney and/or burn down the house and possibly the neighborhood.

The only way you can safely vent an oil-burner and a wood-burner into the same chimney is if you install two stainless steel chimney liners, one for each appliance. Or you may change out the



oil furnace to natural gas high efficiency furnace that pushes exhaust gases through PVC pipe eliminating the need for a chimney

Note: Each Code Authority chooses the standards that regulate appliance and chimney installation and usage in their jurisdiction, and may modify code specs as desired. The above-referenced specifications are interpreted from the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) and the UDC uniform dwelling code. Contact your Code Authority for local regulations.

You are receiving this information from Honest Home Inspections because we care about the safety of you, and your family. That is why we have provided this material on sharing a chimney with a wood burning device and oil fired furnace. This is for Informational purposes only.

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Thanks for your business, Scott