



# Home Heating Safety: Space Heaters, Fireplaces, & Wood Stoves

## Space Heaters

Pull all furniture and other combustible items at least 3 feet away from space heaters, and any heating devices

Never use heaters to dry clothing or other combustibles

Space heaters are temporary heating devices and should only be used for a limited time each day.

When not in use, be sure to unplug the unit and let it cool down if you will be storing the unit.

Never connect a space heater with an extension cord

Electric heaters with frayed or damaged cords should never be used.

Keep a window ajar or the door open in a room where an unvented heater is in use.

Young children should be kept away from any appliance that has hot surfaces that can cause burns.

## Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

Before using the fireplace for the first time in a season, make sure the flue is open.

Chimneys and vents should be inspected and cleaned annually.

Have chimneys inspected and cleaned when necessary by a professional chimney sweep.

Artificial logs made from wax and sawdust should be used one at a time.

Pressure-treated wood should not be burned in stoves or fireplaces because it contains toxic chemicals that can make you sick.

Don't burn newspapers or other trash in a fireplace because they burn too hot and can ignite a chimney fire.

Gasoline or other flammable liquids should never be used to start a wood fire since it might explode or flare up.

Never use gasoline in kerosene heaters.

**Never leave a fireplace unattended.**

### Why inspect & clean annually?

Creosote is an unavoidable product of wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Creosote builds up in connectors and chimney flues and can cause a chimney fire.



## Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Test your home smoke alarm at least once per week.

*To test, press the test button on the unit. Your model may also let you test with a flashlight. Check your operations manual or consult the manufacturer for testing instructions.*

- If you don't have one, install a carbon monoxide detector.

*Carbon monoxide is a tasteless, odorless, invisible gas, which is absorbed by the human body 200 times faster than oxygen. Carbon monoxide will cause people to fall into a deep sleep and cause death. Gas fireplaces, gas stoves, barbecues, gas furnaces, automobiles, propane appliances, and any other device that produces a flame will produce carbon monoxide.*

- Change batteries on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when the clocks change.

