

# Hearth Appliance Safety Tips

## FOR ALL HEARTH APPLIANCES

- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and place smoke and carbon monoxide detectors throughout the house. Test the detectors and batteries regularly. See that the extinguisher is in good working order and that all family members know how to operate it
- Obtain a building permit prior to installing or replacing your Hearth Appliance, as required by the laws in your area
- Advise your insurance company about the installation or replacement of your Hearth Appliance
- Have your Hearth Appliance installed out of the way of foot traffic and away from furniture and draperies
- To fully understand the necessary steps involved in proper operation, read the manufacturer's instruction manual for your specific hearth product
- If your Hearth Appliance is being installed in a home during construction or renovations, do not operate it until the area is thoroughly cleaned (drywall dust and other contaminants may harm the fan motors and burners)
- Do not store combustible materials, gasoline or other flammable liquids near your Hearth Appliance
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a Hearth Appliance. An adjustable gate system that fits most Hearth Appliance areas can be installed which allows adult access to the Hearth Appliance but keeps kids outside in the safety zone
- Maintain your Hearth appliance regularly in accordance with the Manufacturers Specifications, and industry best practices

## FOR GAS HEARTH APPLIANCES

- Installation and repair of a gas Hearth Appliance should be done by a licensed gas contractor
- Children should be carefully supervised when they are in a room with a Hearth Appliance. The glass insert surrounding your natural gas Hearth Appliance can quickly heat up to temperatures higher than 200 C. Once turned off, it takes 45 minutes for the glass to cool back down
- Gas Hearth Appliances with glass doors should not be operated if the glass is cracked or broken
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions in the owner's manual, or use the care guide for maintenance and use of your gas Hearth Appliance
- Have a licensed gas contractor clean and inspect your Hearth Appliance on a regular basis
- Check vent regularly, as recommended in the owners manual

# Hearth Appliance Safety Tips

## FOR WOOD & PELLET HEARTH APPLIANCES

### Set-up Tips for Wood & Pellet Appliances

- Always use a Hearth Appliance screen.
- Parents may want to consider installing a fire-resistant hearth guard (cushioned strip). Keep non fire-resistant materials such as pillows, sheets or rugs well away.
- Have a cap installed at the top of the chimney to avoid the possibility that debris or animals can block the chimney

### Using Your Wood & Pellet Appliance

- Keep wood stacked with top covered [air must be able to circulate around the fuel to properly dry it ], and out-of-doors, away from the house and off the ground.
- Don't use the Hearth Appliance as an incinerator, and never burn garbage, Christmas trees, or piles of paper.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the Hearth Appliance, preferably on a grate.
- Never leave fire unattended. Be sure the fire is extinguished before you go to bed or leave the house.
- Make a fire that fits your Hearth Appliance. A fire that's too large or too hot not only wastes fuel, it can crack your chimney.
- Read and follow the label when using fire logs. Don't poke or break manufactured logs. Fire logs perform best when burned on a supporting Hearth Appliance grate with a maximum of three to four inches of space between support bars.
- Never start a fire using an accelerant.
- Clean out the ashes regularly.

- Store the ashes in a non-combustible container with a tight fitting lid, and keep it at a safe distance from the house
- Don't close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning
- Choose the right fuel. In general, hardwood firewood (oak, madrone, hickory, ash, etc.) burns cleaner than softwood firewood (fir, pine, cedar, etc.). Check with your cordwood supplier to make sure that the wood you purchase is seasoned
- Burn smartly. Good Hearth Appliance habits can decrease fuel consumption in the home while maintaining the same level of warmth. Make sure the fire gets enough air to burn properly. Close the damper when the fire is out to keep warm room air inside

### Maintenance for Your Wood & Pellet Appliance

- Clear the area around the Hearth Appliance and chimney. Check the flue for obstructions like birds' nests, and trim any overhanging branches or large trees near the chimney
- Have your wood Hearth Appliance inspected annually and cleaned when necessary by a chimney sweep certified by WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer). A dirty Hearth Appliance can cause chimney fires and inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue
- Keep your Hearth Appliance in good working condition. If you notice any cracks in the chimney, and any loose mortar or brick, have your chimney repaired. Have the chimney liner inspected for cracking or deterioration