

SOLID-FUEL- BURNING APPLIANCES

Learn more about installation and construction requirements for solid-fuel-burning appliances.

Overview

The correct installation and maintenance ensures safe and effective use of a fireplace or space heater. Installing any solid-fuel-burning factory-built fireplace or space heater system may require the services of a qualified technician. To achieve high-quality and safe performance of these appliances, you should strongly consider having it professionally installed. A safety codes officer will perform an inspection to check the installation for compliance with the current edition of the National Building Code – Alberta Edition and applicable standards.

Certification labels on factory-built fireplaces and space heaters is your assurance that a product has been tested in conformance to recognized safety standards.

If you are planning to install a solid-fuel-burning factory-built fireplace or space heater and still have questions, please contact us.

When you need a permit

If you are planning to install a solid-fuel-burning appliance, you will need a permit. As the homeowner, you are responsible for getting all required permits.

Check with your municipality to find out what permits you need. Some restrictions may apply. Make sure you get your permit(s) before starting your project.

Professional installation

It is highly recommended that any type of solid-fuel-burning appliance be installed by a certified professional. Look for professional installers who are Wood Energy Technical Transfer (WETT) certified when installing a wood or other biomass-fuel-burning appliance. For additional service and safety information, contact Wood Energy Technical Transfer Inc.



SAFETY TIPS

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TYPES OF FIREPLACES

Solid-fuel-burning factory-built fireplaces

These are also fireplaces commonly known as “zero-clearance”. This term is sometimes misleading because it implies the fireplace does not need clearances to combustible material.

Manufacturers’ instructions will refer to “framing spacers,” designed to ensure combustible material used in construction is a safe distance from the fireplace.

Never substitute a component that has not been specifically designed for the unit you are installing. You may create a fire hazard that place lives at risk.

All components, including chimneys and fans, must carry labels indicating they were tested to be compatible with the particular installation.

Fireplaces must be installed and used as required in the certified manufacturer’s instructions.

FIREPLACE CHIMNEYS

Chimneys

The chimney for a factory-built fireplace or space heater must be specifically designed, tested and labeled for the particular installation.

Factory-built chimneys serving solid-fuel-burning appliances and their installation must conform to CAN/ULC-S629, “650 C Factory-Built Chimneys.”

Masonry and concrete chimneys must conform to the NBC(AE)

Combustion air

Where combustion air is provided to the fire chamber of a site-built fireplace, the installation shall comply with the “Outdoor Air Supply” requirements provided in CAN/CSA-A405-M, “Design and Construction of Masonry Chimneys and Fireplaces.”

Combustion air for factory-built fireplaces shall conform to the manufacturers certified instructions.

Carbon Monoxide Alarm

A room containing a solid-fuel burning fireplace or space heater requires a carbon monoxide alarm conforming to CAN/CSA-6.19, “Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarming Devices”. The carbon monoxide alarm must be mechanically fixed at the manufacturer’s recommended height where the instructions mention solid-fuel burning appliances, or where the instructions do not mention this, on or near the ceiling.



SAFETY TIPS

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Contact

Community and Technical Support branch of Municipal Affairs:

Hours: 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (open Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays)

Toll free: 1-866-421-6929

Email: safety.services@gov.ab.ca

Please contact your local Fire Department for any questions regarding this Safety Tip.

