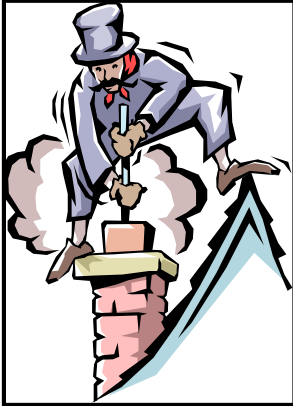


HAVE YOU HAD YOUR CHIMNEY CHECKED LATELY?



Like most homeowners, you are constantly taking steps to protect your most personal investment. For safety and efficiency, you probably have your home heating system checked each fall. A furnace or boiler inspection is an important part of winterizing your home.

But what you may not know is that the same furnace or boiler probably relies on your chimney to carry toxic fumes away from your home and family, and to provide the conditions that allow your heating equipment to function most efficiently and safely.

That's why the National Fire Protection Association and the Chimney Safety Institute of America recommend inspections of *all* chimneys every year.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Have your chimney cleaned and inspected regularly** A certified chimney sweep should inspect your chimney at least once a year. If it's dirty, get it cleaned.
- **Check the outside of your chimney** If it needs repair, get it done before there is further deterioration and more expensive repairs.
- **Install a chimney cap** Caps prevent water damage and keep animals out of the flue. They also reduce the danger of flying sparks.
- **Check the draft before lighting a fire** Always make sure the damper of your fireplace is open before lighting a fire.
- **Don't use petroleum products to start or intensify a fire** Charcoal starters are for outside use only. Never store petroleum products near a woodstove or fireplace—it's a fire hazard.
- **If you have a chimney fire, don't close the damper** If you close it, the house may fill with smoke. Call the fire department and get your family out of the house.

AND DON'T FORGET:

- Never leave fires unattended.
- Always remove ashes to a metal container and put them outside.