



PRESENTS
WOODSTOVE SAFETY

Sadly, there were 381,000 home fires reported in the U.S. in 2005. Of those fires, 3,675 people were killed, a person every 143 minutes. These fires caused **\$10.6 billion** in direct property damage. While the National Fire Protection Association reports that damage total was the fourth lowest since the late 1970's, there are steps all of us can take to help continue the downward trend.

Below is some information and guidelines on Fire Safety Practices for woodstoves that will help you in keeping your home safe during winter heating months. Please call your local code enforcement officer for additional information, and stay safe.

Proper installation is the first step in using your woodstove. We recommend that you have a professional technician install your woodstove. Whether you do it yourself or hire someone, always follow the manufacturer installation instructions and use the proper tools, parts and protective gear.

Use the following checklist as a guide to ensuring proper installation and maintenance.

- ✓ The stovepipe is 18" from all walls and ceilings _____
- ✓ The stovepipe thimble is 12" from all combustible materials, including walls _____
- ✓ The horizontal portion of the stovepipe has an upward pitch of 1/4" per foot _____
- ✓ The stovepipe joints are fastened with 3 or more sheetmetal screws _____
- ✓ The stovepipe is no longer than 10' with less than two elbows _____
- ✓ The stove is the only heating device connected to the flue _____
- ✓ The stove is 36 or more inches from any combustible material _____
- ✓ The stove legs are at least 4" long _____
- ✓ The stove is placed on a certified stoveboard or masonry hearth _____
- ✓ The stoveboard extends at least 18" on all sides _____
- ✓ The chimney has a clay thimble or prefabricated metal collar where the stovepipe goes into the chimney _____
- ✓ There are no cracks or signs of overheating or damaged parts _____
- ✓ There are no corroded or heat damaged stovepipes _____
- ✓ There are no cracks in the chimney liner, no creosote accumulation _____



Also remember the following:

- ✓ Burn only dry, well seasoned hardwoods
- ✓ Store ashes in an approved airtight metal container on a non-combustible surface
- ✓ Check your stovepipes **monthly** and keep them clean
- ✓ Clean your chimney at least once each heating season, more if necessary