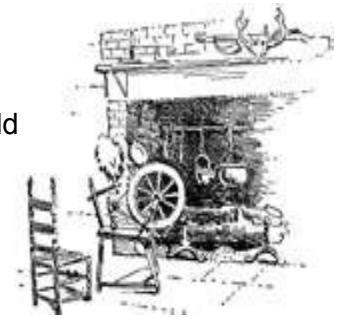
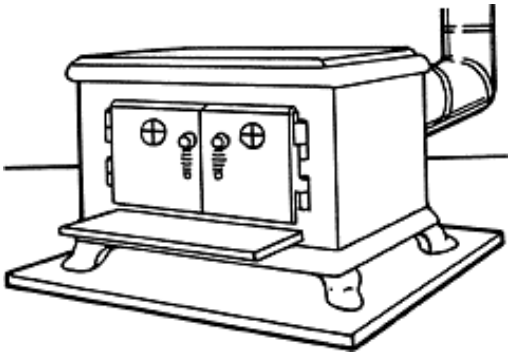
Wood burning appliances - stoves and fireplaces



Experts do not recommend the purchase or installation of any wood burning stove unless it is air-tight and has controlled airflow. If you are burning a lot of wood, your stovepipe and chimney may have a heavy buildup of creosote which can lead to a fire in your chimney which could spread to the roof of your home. Fireplace chimneys should be inspected and cleaned at least once a year, stovepipe chimneys check once a month and clean as needed. Insure proper installation. Adequate clearance for wood stoves, at least 36 inches from combustible surfaces. Insure you have adequate floor support and protection.



Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed. Have a chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used in some time. Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire in a fireplace or wood stove. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping. A wood-burning stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15 to 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.

Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces or wood stoves. Overbuilding the fire could ignite creosote in the chimney. Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide. Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace or wood stove mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials. Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace or wood stove. A closed damper can help rekindle the fire, forcing toxic carbon monoxide into the house. If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire, and never use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.