

How safe is your chimney?

The chimney is a critical component of your heating system where expert advice is warranted. All chimneys will eventually have a creosote build up so preventative maintenance is a necessity.

The National Fire Code of Canada states: "Every chimney flue and chimney pipe shall be inspected and cleaned annually, or as often as may be necessary to keep the chimney and flue pipe free from dangerous accumulation of combustible deposits."

Any wood, seasoned or fresh, hardwood or softwood creates tars and creosotes as it burns. This residue rises up the chimney and coats the flue creating a fire hazard.

The right ignition temperature combined with a creosote buildup will create a chimney fire. A creosote fire intensifies to temperatures ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 degrees. A fire will at the very least leave your chimney weak; at worst, your roof will catch fire.

To keep the creosote build up to a minimum, use dry, well-seasoned wood, preferably hardwoods. When green wood is used, the moisture content is released from the wood in the heater and creosote forms.

The safest way of igniting wood is to use kindling, wood shavings, wood chips or newspapers. Keep stored wood at least five feet away from the stove, furnace or fireplace.

Don't give a fire a place to start You are the key to fire safety

Ashes should be removed frequently as an accumulation inside the combustion chamber can lead to inefficient burning, and may be hazardous.

When to clean your fireplace or stove varies with the amount it is used and the type of wood. Fireplaces being used about twice a week should be cleaned annually. Woodstoves used regularly should be cleaned at least once a year; twice if it's airtight.

Oil flues require less maintenance. Depending on the efficiency of your oil burner, chimney sweeping will be required after three to five years of use.

Oliver Chimney Sweeps

844-9744



- chimney flues cleaned
- fireplace cleaned
- screens and caps installed
- obstructions removed

Special rate
on seasoned
hardwood
to Oliver customers