

Important Tips for Using Fire Safely

Fireplaces and Fire Pits

FlickItSafely.com

Whether fueled by wood or gas, the illumination from the flames of a fireplace cheers us on gray days and snowy nights. They are focal points for family gatherings and holiday celebrations. Just be sure to follow some simple rules and you'll not only feel warm and cozy, you'll be safe, too.



FIREPLACE SAFETY

- Please be sure to read the Manufacturer's instructions and warnings before use.
- Remember to open the flue on the fireplace before starting the fire and leave it open until the fire has completely stopped burning.
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a wood fire and use a metal mesh screen to catch burning embers or shifting logs.
- Remember, closed glass doors on a gas fireplace get extremely hot. Consider installing a safety screen over the glass or a free standing safety gate around the hearth.
- Never leave the fireplace or children unattended when using the fireplace, while the embers in a wood fireplace are still burning or for an hour after turning off a gas fireplace.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire in an indoor fireplace.
- For gas fireplaces, move the gas valve to "closed" when you're not using it.
- Keep children, pets, and anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1-meter) from the fireplace.
- Be certain your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working. Carbon monoxide can build up from a poorly vented fireplace. Always make sure to have a fire extinguisher on hand inside the house.

INDOOR PORTABLE FIREPLACES

- Please be sure to read the Manufacturer's instructions and warnings before use.
- Place the fireplace on a sturdy surface away from table edges.

- Never try to move a lit fireplace or one that is still hot. Allow it to cool down for at least 15 minutes completely or in accordance with manufacturer's instructions before refueling. As with candles, put out the flame when you leave the room, or go to sleep.
- The fireplace and fuel should only be used by adults, and an adult should be present at all times when a portable fireplace is burning.

OUTDOOR FIRE PITS

- Make sure your fire pit is on a stable, nonflammable surface – not a wooden deck – and at least 10 feet (3-meters) from your home, covered deck, hanging branches, or anything flammable.
- Only use the fuel that the pit is built to burn. With gas pits, make sure all vents are clear.
- Use a spark screen to prevent sparks from flying.
- Don't overload a wood burning fire pit. Flames shouldn't be more than 6 inches (15 cm) above the outer rim.
- Douse a wood fire completely when you are done. For a gas or propane pit, turn off the supply before putting out the fire.
- Have a fire extinguisher, water or sand nearby whenever using your fire pit.

Additional Resources:

The Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association website provides additional information on these products, their safe use, installation and maintenance: <http://www.hpba.org/product-information/product-factsheets/>