

## Efficient Burning Techniques

The key is to burn small, hot fires, using hardwood — that will minimize creosote accumulation and maximize heat output.



Keep fires burning hot with flames, not smoldering with a lot of smoke.

Be careful not to add too much firewood. In a fireplace, keep the top of the flames visible below the fireplace opening. In a woodstove, keep the flames confined to the woodstove itself.

With glass doors, keep the doors wide open with the screen closed for a good half hour after starting the fire. When you see the fire is burning well, close the doors and set any draft controls.

It's better to add smaller loads more often than to cram in a lot of wood trying to get an all-day burn.

When you're ready to put out a fire, separate the logs by moving them to the side of the fireplace or stand them on end in the back of the fireplace. Close the screen or glass doors tightly, but don't close the damper until you're sure the fire and coals are completely out.

## How to Avoid Chimney Fires

### Creosote is the main cause of chimney fires

A buildup of creosote is highly combustible and can result in a chimney fire. To minimize creosote:

**Burn** only seasoned woods.

**Do not** burn trash in a fireplace or woodstove.

**Don't** allow the fire to smolder.

**Contact** your chimney professional to clean your chimney regularly.

### What to do if you have a chimney fire

Get everyone out of the house.

Call the Fire Department.

**Don't** close the damper. If you have a fireplace with glass doors, close the doors and the vents. If you have a woodstove, close the doors and the air inlets.



If flames are visible at the chimney top, hose down the roof, but not the chimney. Spraying water on a hot chimney could damage it.

Call a chimney professional before using it again. Even a small chimney fire can damage the chimney, making it unsafe to use.

For more information, contact:



## How to safely enjoy your home fire



- Easy tips for starting your fire •
- Valuable troubleshooting hints •
- Efficient burning techniques •
- How to avoid chimney fires •