

# Loss Prevention Safety Tips



## WOOD STOVE & FIRE PLACE SAFETY

We all enjoy the coziness of a warm fire, but danger can be lurking if precautions are not taken.

### Chimneys

All chimneys deteriorate through heavy use, neglect and age. Some of the many problems include cracked or missing bricks, a blocked flue, missing mortar, a deteriorated crown, corroded flashing, corroded pre-fabricated chimneys and creosote build-up.

Creosote forms when unburned waste products from wood adhere to the sides of the chimney. The worst danger is that creosote can ignite inside your chimney. A hot and quickly spreading chimney fire can cause damage to your entire house! A disaster such as this can be easily avoided by having your chimney checked annually.

### Wood Stoves

Be sure to follow the manufacturers' directions and the local building codes for proper installation, use and maintenance of your wood-burning stove.

Always start your fire using paper and small pieces of kindling. Never use accelerants to start a fire. Things can get out of hand in a hurry!

Burn only well-seasoned wood. Green or unseasoned wood burns cooler than well-seasoned wood and can cause creosote to build up at a much faster rate.

Be sure to clean the ashes out of your wood-burning stove on a regular basis. Store the ashes in a covered metal container. Hot coals in discarded ashes can easily ignite grass, leaves and trees if left uncovered. Keep the ash container at a safe distance away from the house and any other nearby buildings.

### Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers

Change the batteries and test each smoke detector unit regularly. If for some reason you have disconnected a smoke detector, hook it back up. This precaution saves lives! Smoke detectors can be purchased at most hardware, home building, and a variety of retail stores. This is a very inexpensive way to protect you and your family.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy and make sure that everyone in your household knows how to use it. Keep your fire extinguisher well maintained - if it does not work, it won't do you any good!



**See more loss prevention tips at [www.preventingloss.com](http://www.preventingloss.com)**

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