



Fireplace and Chimney Safety Tips

By J Wilson

You can take steps to keep your fireplace and chimney in good working condition. However, if you do not want to do the dirty stuff of going through it, you can hire a certified and reputable chimney sweep to inspect your chimney and make repairs if needed. Here are the following fireplace and chimney safety tips you need to follow.

*Perform regular fireplace and chimney inspection and cleaning at least once a year to ensure it is functioning properly.

*Check the exterior structure of the chimney for damages and make repairs if necessary.

*Install a protective cap to keep the area around the chimney free of leaves, tree branches, bird nests, animals, and other debris.

*Inspect the fireplace interior for cracks and loose bricks and repair them if found.

*Use natural logs whenever possible. When using artificial logs, make sure to follow the package directions given.

*Always see to it that a good fire screen is in the fireplace.

*Keep materials such as papers, plastics, batteries, etc., away from the fireplace.

*Set your damper so the draft will remove the smoke and gas when you turn on the fireplace.

*Remove the ashes at least once a week and store outside in a non-flammable container with a tight lid.

*For gas and propane fireplaces, check the fan operation, gas pilot safety system and thermostat, and clean pilot and burners.

*Replace fireplace tools if they are damaged.

*Do not burn garbage, charcoal, or plastic materials in the fireplace.

*Never use gasoline or other liquid to start the fire.

*Keep the small children away from the fireplace and do not leave it unattended.

*Make sure to completely put out the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

About the Author: Pittsburgh Chimney Sweep [<http://alschimneysweep.com/>] provides quality chimney & fireplace services to the Greater Pittsburgh, PA area.