

FIRING YOUR STOVE

Some ash left over from the last fire can be desirable, since it acts as a heat reflector in the bottom of the stove.

Crumple a small amount of paper and place it in the fire chamber. Over the paper place kindling wood and a few pieces of small fuel wood. Be sure the damper is open, then light the paper. Once the wood begins to burn well and a good draft has been created, larger pieces of wood may be added.

NEVER:

- Use flammable liquids to light a fire
- Store flammable liquids in an area where a stove is being used
- Burn trash, large amounts of paper or small twigs
- “Over Fire” so that stove pipe becomes “Red Hot”
- Leave the doors open or screen off except to fuel the fire.
- Dry clothing closer than three feet to the stove
- Leave small children in a room where a wood stove is in use

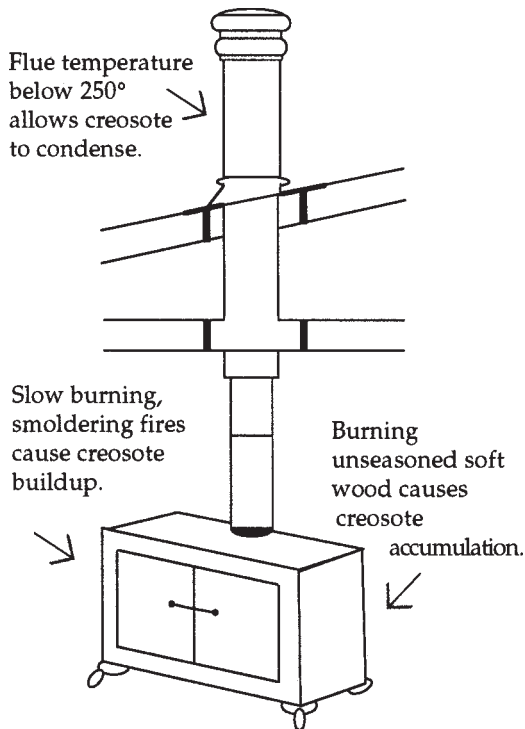
CHIMNEY FIRES

A chimney fire can be a frightening and dangerous experience. A chimney fire may produce loud crackling, rumbling or roaring noises and a red hot stove pipe. These fires can spread to the building itself, causing serious loss and endangering the lives of your family.

Chimney fires are caused when CREOSOTE, a normal by-product of burning wood, collects on the inside of the chimney and is ignited. The causes of creosote buildup are listed below:

REDUCE CREOSOTE BUILDUP

CREOSOTE FORMATION



These steps will help limit creosote buildup:

- Burn only dry, seasoned wood
- Avoid slow burning smoky fires
- Have your chimney inspected and if necessary, cleaned periodically

If you do have a chimney fire, in spite of your precautions, do these things:

- Call the fire department and get everyone out of the house
- Close the stove door, draft opening and damper to cut off air to the fire
- Never throw water on a hot stove

A chimney fire may damage parts of the chimney or stove pipe. Be sure to have an inspection made of your entire system before you use it again.

SELECTING WOOD TO BURN

One important factor in preventing creosote buildup in using only dry, seasoned wood. To be seasoned, wood must have been cut and dried six to twelve months or longer depending on the kind of wood. If you cut your own wood, cut well in advance of the time of use. Give the wood time to dry and become seasoned before use.

If you buy the wood you will be using – shop around. Buy the driest wood you can find. Dry wood looks and feels different than green wood. A stick of dry wood weighs less. The end of