



Cowls and Terminals

The terminal or top of your chimney is an essential part of the system. Terminals include things like pots, birdguards, cowls etc.

The best terminal is often an open pot as the combustion gasses can go straight up and not be restricted by a rain-cap or cowl, but is sometimes necessary to fit a Rain-cap, Birdguard or other Cowl

For many reasons there are terminals that don't conform to building regulations and can cause problems when using solid fuel. The wrong terminal can interfere with the passage of poisonous gasses and can be immediately dangerous.

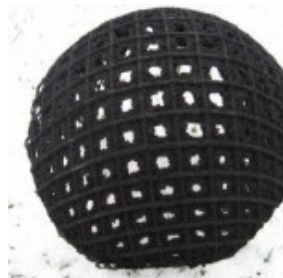
Two of the most common terminals **UNSAFE** for live chimneys.



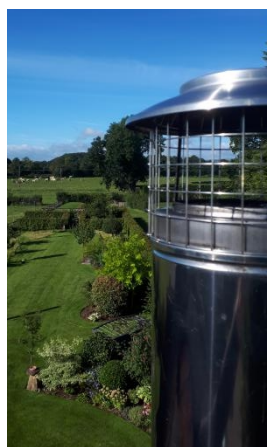
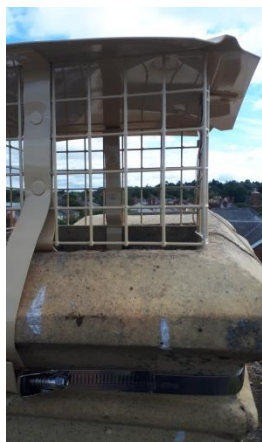
NEVER USE THESE WITH A LIVE FIRE

Bird Guards

Mesh balloon guards are cheap alternative to a proper bird guard. The mesh size is too small and this reduces the flow of gasses. It is also prone to becoming blocked. They are not secured so when being swept either is not cleaned or has the risk of being knocked off.



A Hightop bird guard is my preferred standard guard as it reduces the amount of rain going down the flue but is easier to sweep and maintain. If there is any chance that smokeless fuel will be used, a guard or terminal should be made of stainless steel to prolong the life of the guard.



Anti Downdraught Cowls

The problems of "downdraught" or cold air coming down the chimney are common. There are many reasons for downdraught and investigating before fitting an Anti-downdraft cowl is essential. There are often multiple factors involved. Chimney height, terminal position, terminal design, building architecture, proximity to other structures including trees & hedges, chimney temperature, are some reasons. It is unlikely that fitting a cowl will increase the draught of a chimney, indeed the added restriction may reduce the up-draught further. Fitting a rotary type cowl can solve the problem but only if the problem occurs when it is windy. The rotary cowl does need to be maintained and serviced which can only be done from the roof.



Chimney Caps

Chimney caps are a single piece of material that caps the chimney to prevent water entering the chimney. There is a small gap for ventilation allowing the chimney to breathe..



If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.