



## Fireplace & Chimney Safety Checklist

Make sure your home is safe, cozy, and ready for the season.

### Before the Season Starts

- ☐ Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually – hire a certified chimney professional before the first fire of the season.
- ☐ Check the chimney cap and spark arrestor – ensure it's intact and free of debris.
- ☐ Inspect the flue and damper – make sure it opens, closes, and seals properly.
- ☐ Look for visible cracks in the masonry or firebox – repair any gaps or deterioration.

### When Using the Fireplace

- ☐ Burn only seasoned, dry hardwood – avoid green wood or treated lumber.
- ☐ Use a fireplace screen or glass doors to contain sparks and embers.
- ☐ Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from the hearth area.
- ☐ Never leave a fire unattended – extinguish before leaving or going to bed.
- ☐ Use proper fireplace tools (not hands) to manage logs safely.

### Home Safety Around the Fireplace

- ☐ Install and test smoke & carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- ☐ Have a working fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it (PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep).
- ☐ Check for proper ventilation and clear vents of obstructions.
- ☐ Clean ashes safely – let them cool completely and store in a metal container outdoors.

### Bonus Tip

- ☐ If buying or selling a home with a fireplace, include a chimney inspection – it's often overlooked but critical for safety and insurance.

Start your new homeownership journey safely with this "Fireplace Safety Checklist"

from

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