

# Wood heat still popular

The Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services finds that heating with wood is still a popular choice for offsetting the cost of natural gas or furnace oil. It is even more popular when sitting in front of a warm woodstove or open-faced fireplace on a cold, frosty winter night. However, paying close attention to the maintenance of these appliances is very important.

1. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing and maintaining the chimney or appliance. Check Municipal Bylaws for the need to obtaining a Building Permit.
2. Inspect and clean your chimney regularly. The Ontario Fire Code requires homeowners to maintain the safety of their chimneys and inspect them at least once a year. Your chimney could have a problem that you cannot see. If in doubt call a WETT (Wood Energy

- Technical Training) certified chimney sweep.
3. Check stovepipes and connections. Ensure screws are located at every pipe connection.
  4. Check for creosote. Creosote can form quickly and is a major cause of chimney fires. Never let creosote or soot build up.
  5. Check walls for excessive heat. If the wall is very hot, it could be a sign of improper installation of the chimney or stove pipe.
  6. Install a rain cap. A rain cap should be installed on top of all metal and masonry chimneys.
  7. Watch for smoke coming into the room. This could indicate a blockage in the chimney or a faulty damper control.
  8. Protect floors and walls from heat and sparks. Keep combustibles safely away from your appliance.
  9. Regularly check for signs of problems. Flue pipes and chimneys can deteriorate over time. Check for corrosion or rust stains on the

outer shell of metal chimneys. Loose bricks, crumbling mortar, broken liners, dark stains indicate problems with masonry chimneys. These should be fixed immediately by a qualified mason.

And above all .... Ensure your home has at least one working smoke alarm!

### What's Your Beef?



Put it in a letter to the Editor! Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

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**SISTER ACT:** Megan and Kate Wheatley came from Guelph to help out their grandmother Julie Conroy at St. Joseph's Bazaar and Tea last Saturday.

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