

Roasting chestnuts on a safer fireplace

During the holiday season, the fireplace in a home is not only a source of warmth but a centerpiece for gatherings with family and friends. Like any home appliance, it should be safe, properly maintained, and good for the environment—inside and out. Here are some tips from The Home Depot Canada to ensure your fireplace isn't a fire hazard:

Ensure the area around the fireplace is free of debris. Debris like holiday decorations and wrapping paper can cause a fire if they are too close to the fireplace.

Don't forget the chimney. Check the flue for obstructions like birds' nests, and trim any overhanging branches or large trees near the chimney.

Always use a fireplace screen. A screen will keep sparks and embers from potentially causing a fire hazard or damaging rugs and floors.

If using a wood fireplace, never overload

the fireplace with too many logs. Don't use the fireplace as an incinerator and never burn garbage, Christmas trees, or piles of paper.

Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and place smoke detectors throughout the house.

Test the smoke detectors and batteries regularly. See that the extinguisher is in good working order and that all family members know how to operate it.

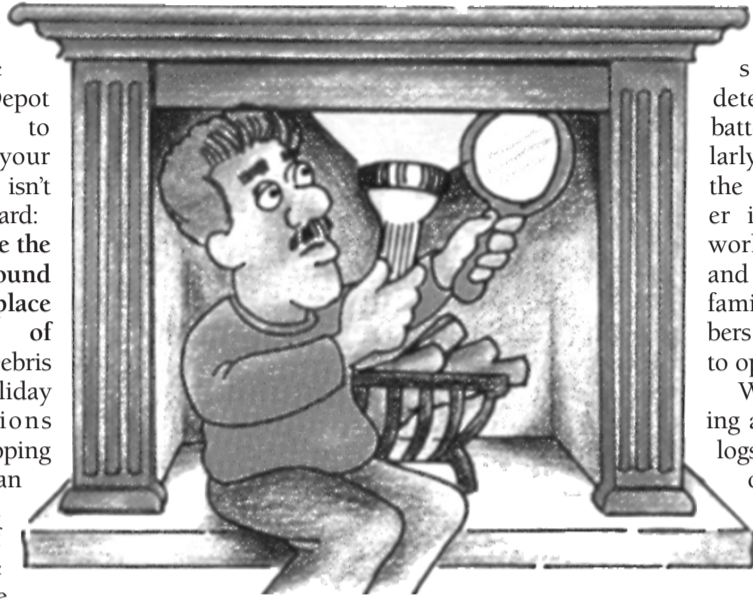
When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace, preferably on a grate.

Never leave fire unattended. Be sure the fire is extinguished before you go to bed.

Have your fireplace inspected annually and cleaned when necessary. A dirty fireplace can cause chimney fires or contribute to air pollution.

For more safety tips, visit www.homedepot.ca or The Home Depot in your community.

—News Canada



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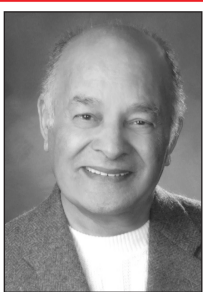
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