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Res.

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Real Estate Get chimney cleaned and inspected before cold weather sets in to stay.

Now that cooler weather is on its way, you suitability. This job is best performed by a may want to start thinking about having your chimney cleaned and inspected.

Before an existing chimney is used to vent a wood stove or fireplace, a thorough inspection should be done to determine its

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Res.

professional chimney sweep who can give you advice on the suitability of an existing spring and fall when heat demand is lower. chimney.

For safety's sake, your chimney must conform to Ontario Building Code Standards.

It may be a masonry chimney with a tilelined flue, or your chimney can be factory-built. If you are buying a wood stove, make sure the factory- built chimney has been certified by either Underwriters' Hersey Professional Services Ltd. Their label on the stove indicates the chimney meets ac- Brushes and rods are the most common ceptable safety standards.

ing system. The chimney drives the system by producing the draft which draws in combustion air and exhausts smoke and gases outdoors. To understand how chimneys function, you have to remember the principle that hot air rises.

Since hot exhausted gases from the fireplace are lighter than the outside air, gases are services of a chimney sweep rather than forced up the chimney and colder air rushes into the appliance through fireplace openings: to balance the negative pressure. The force caused by the rising gases is called draft. Draft is created by the difference in temperature between the gases in the chimney and the outside air. Greater temperature differences produce stronger draft.

Chimneys must be checked regularly for creosote build-up because creosote is combustible and may catch fire in your chimney. The rate of creosote build-up depends on appliance and chimney characteristics, the type of fuel used, and on how the system is

have a slower rate of build-up, however, all systems have a faster rate of build-up in the

Creosote may appear in the form of dry, flaky deposits clinging to the liner, or a shiny, glazed coating which looks like black paint. Glazed creosote is the most dangerous kind and indicates that something is wrong with the system. Glazed creosote should never be allowed to exceed three millimetres in thickness and dry, flaky treosote should Laboratories of Canada Ltd., or Warnock be removed when it reaches six millimetres

chimney cleaning equipment. The performance of the chimney is the brushes are normally used to metal chimmost important component of a woodburn- neys and steel brushes are used for masonry chimneys. The brush should fit snugly in the chimney so that enough friction is produced to remove deposits. Most chimney cleaning rods are made from fibreglass with threadedcouplings at each end. Several passes with the brush are needed for thorough cleaning.

Many homeowners prefer to contract the climbing on their roofs to clean the chimney. An experienced chimney sweep can complete the job quickly and will leave no mess behind.

The sweep will also report on the condition of the chimney and how you can avoid creosote build-up. Referrals are the best way to select a chimney sweep. Check with neighbours to see if they are satisfied with the sweeping services they have received.

If you do ever have a chimney fire, here is what to do:

1. Close all combustion air dampers on the appliance.

2) Call the fire department and prepared to get everyone out of the house. 3) Do not spray water into the chimney.

The rapid contraction caused by cooling may break tiles. 4) Check the outside. Sparks and embers

will be blown out the chimney top and can ignite the roof. Go outside and see where they are landing. 3) After the fire has run its course and

the chimney has cooled, have the chimney thoroughly inspected to determine if it sustained any damage.

(a) Resolve to inspect the chimney more

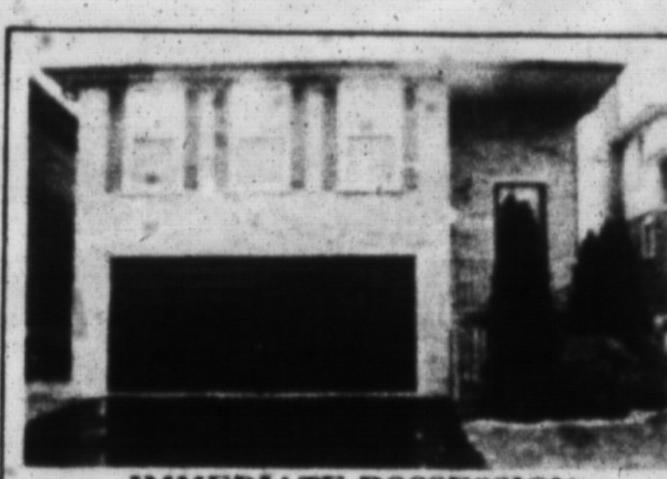




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