

Dos and don'ts of chimney installation

Every householder knows that regular service and maintenance of heating equipment is the key to economy and safety. What is easy to forget is that the chimney is a critical component, whether you heat with oil, natural gas or wood.

Take a look at the following checklist. If your chimney or your maintenance practices do not

Furnace does need regular check-up

Just like a car, or any other mechanical device, your oil furnace needs to be checked regularly. A knowledgeable heating professional should clean and service your furnace at least once a year to ensure safety, reliability and efficiency.

A thorough cleaning and tuning operation will take one to two hours and involve the partial disassembly of your furnace and oil burner. The internal heat exchanger, flue pipe and lower chimney surfaces should be brushed and vacuumed to remove soot and debris. Corroded or damaged flue pipes should be replaced immediately.

Moving parts such as dampers need to be lubricated and belts need to be cleaned and tested. The entire system, from the fuel tank oil filter to the nozzle, should be inspected, cleaned, adjusted and, where necessary, parts should be replaced.

Your serviceman should use replacement nozzles certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Make sure that the oil spray pattern and oil flow, measured in gallons per hour, are compatible with the rating described on the name plate of the furnace.

The condition of the ductwork can affect furnace efficiency. Recirculating air needs a clear path for its return to the furnace for reheating. The duct system should allow for adequate circulation, and registers should never be obstructed.

An open or loose panel on the furnace casing will draw cool basement air into the system, and may even be a safety hazard. Warm air ducts should be insulated, especially where they pass through unheated spaces or into exterior walls. The joints in the ductwork can be taped with special duct tape to reduce the loss of warm air, but remember to wash them first, otherwise the tape won't stick.

If you have any questions about furnace maintenance, your serviceman is a reliable source of information. Another option is the toll-free HEATLINE 1-800-267-9563 where free advice is always available on any energy-related topic.

Don't let it get hot

A stack thermometer on the flue pipe is the easiest way to keep track of how the fire is burning in your wood stove.

Look for the type with a metal probe rather than the magnetic type, and insert it in the flue pipe between 30 cm and 60 cm above the flue collar.

For the best performance, the flue temperature should not exceed 330°C or fall below 110°C during normal operation.

match this profile, seek advice from a qualified professional.

- All chimneys must be installed with safe clearances to combustible building components and materials.

- For safety and long life the chimney should be properly sized. Ideally it should be the same size as the flue pipe that connects it to the heating appliance.

- Multiple connections to the same chimney can be dangerous. Never connect two or more heating appliances to a single chim-

ney without an inspection by the appropriate authority in our area.

- A chimney located inside a house will perform better and require less maintenance than one located outside. Masonry chimneys with surfaces exposed both outside and inside have the greatest loss of heat.

- Adequate clearance (contact your local building inspector) from the roof and nearby obstructions is essential to good performance, as air turbulence creates uneven chimney draft.

- Regular inspections are a must, no matter what fuel you use. You should check for loose mortar between the bricks; rust, sulphur or creosote stains on the chimney surface; or loose bricks at the bottom of the chimney. Ensure that the support brackets (on a metal chimney), the sparks screen and the chimney flashing on the roof are in good condition and operating properly. Chimneys should be cleaned when creosote builds up to 6mm.

Chimneys serving oil or gas ap-

pliances should be checked once a year or more often if convenient. Chimneys venting wood heating appliances need even closer attention, especially in the spring and fall when cool or smouldering fires can accelerate dangerous creosote buildup on a chimney's inner surface.

Remember that a chimney is an important part of any heating system. The failure of a poorly maintained or installed chimney can have severe consequences for you and your home.

How a 2" plastic pipe can give you the energy to cut your heating costs in half.



If you're tired of paying the high cost of heating your home with oil, switch to a high efficiency, clean-burning, gas furnace. These state of the art furnaces are so technically advanced, they can actually cut your heating cost in half compared to conventional oil furnaces.

HOW

A high efficiency gas furnace uses a system of heat exchangers to catch the heat that a conventional oil furnace lets escape up your chimney.

This extra heat is then used to heat the house, and the remaining exhaust is vented via a 2 inch plastic pipe.

So there's almost no waste. In fact, a high efficiency condensing furnace operates above 90% efficiency, compared to 65% for conventional oil furnaces. This, coupled with the low cost of natural gas, is how you can save 50% and more on your oil heating costs.

EASY INSTALLATION

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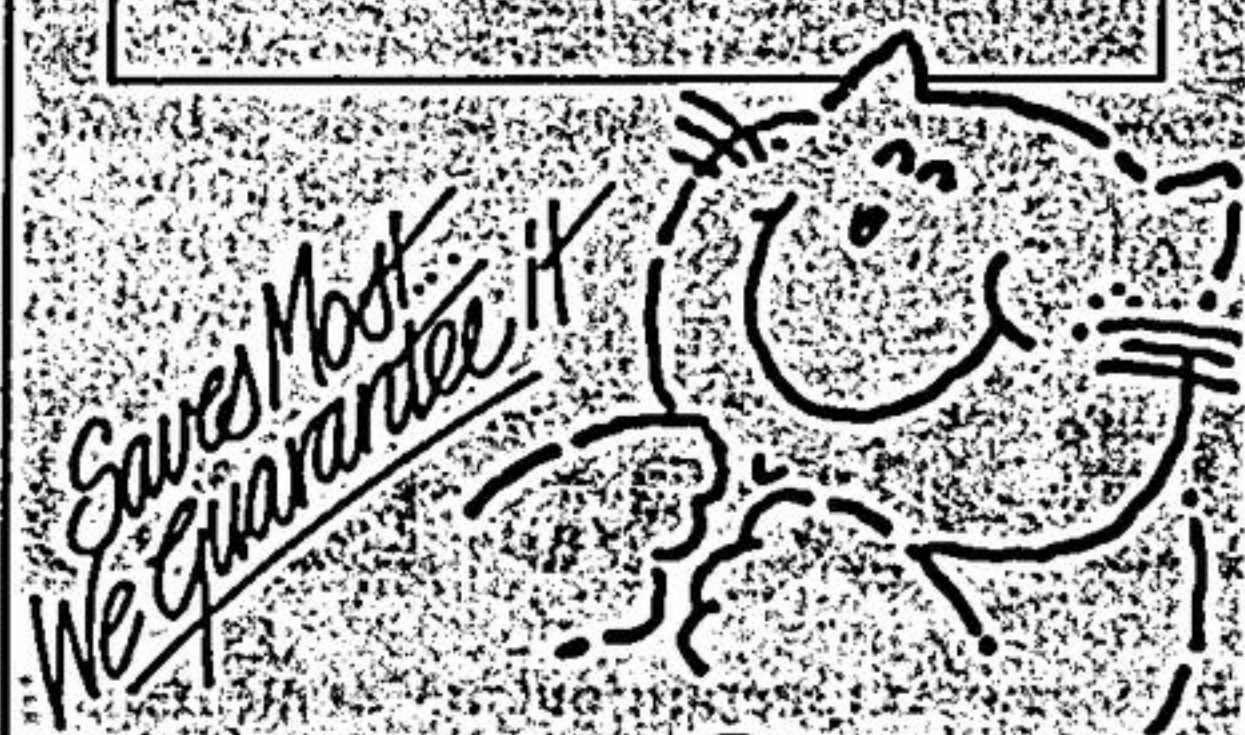
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