

An Important Message From

CONSUMERS GAS

IT'S TIME TO PREPARE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM FOR COLD WEATHER.

For better heating economy and efficiency, follow this easy step by step checklist.

Heating system check-up

- 1 On warm air systems, clean furnace filters or replace disposable filters before the winter. A dirty filter can reduce air flow and cause your system to work harder than it has to.
- 2 Keep your electric motor and fan bearings (and/or pump) lubricated for greater efficiency. (Two drops* of oil in the well each year should do it.)



*Note: Some new motors do not need lubricating.

- 3 If you have a hot water heating system, ensure that it is filled to the proper level by bleeding air from each radiator. If you observe these basics, you will soon find that using gas can be even more economical.

Chimney check-up

It's difficult to know when you have a chimney problem. First, answer the following questions:

- 1 Does your chimney have a metal chimney liner?
- 2 Is your heating system connected to a metal venting system (that is, not a brick or stone chimney)? If you answer "Yes" to either of these questions, you probably need not worry about your chimney being able to adequately vent your furnace.

Any brick or stone chimney should receive periodic inspection from a chimney expert. **However, here are three simple checks you can make yourself.

- 1 Check the cleanout pit at the bottom of your chimney. Should you find any debris, remove it. If it contains bits of mortar, brick or stone, erosion could be taking place.
- 2 Use a mirror to look up your chimney, through your cleanout door, during daylight hours. You should have an unobstructed view to the outside. There should be no visual evidence of crumbling mortar, brick or stone. Your chimney may be "offset", which will not allow you a visual inspection with a mirror. In such cases, we suggest an inspection by a chimney expert.**
- 3 Check outside chimney brickwork. You should not see a white, chalky substance on the bricks, stone or mortar.

If you have a problem

- 1 If there is any chimney blockage above the vent connection, turn off your heating system (and your gas water heater) immediately. Call a chimney repair company** for an inspection.
- 2 If there is more than an inch of broken mortar, brick or stone in the cleanout pit and you cannot see daylight using a mirror, follow the instructions in step 1. If there is no blockage, call a chimney repair company** for an inspection. You may operate the furnace and water heater until the chimney is inspected, but you should check the chimney periodically for blockage until you have the chimney contractor's** report.



- 3 If you see a white, chalky staining on exterior brickwork, stone or mortar, but the cleanout pit is clear and there are no obstructions in the chimney or signs of deterioration on the chimney's exterior, ask a chimney repair company** for an inspection. In the meantime, you may operate your heating system safely.

**Consult your Yellow Pages for Chimney Builders and Repairers.

Some conservation tips

Follow these simple rules and the result will be a better, more economical heating system.

- 1 Make sure you have well fitting doors and windows. A good fit keeps cold air out and warm air in. Proper weather-stripping and caulking also helps.
- 2 Rugs, furniture, drapes, etc. should not be allowed to obstruct warm air outlets and cold air returns.
- 3 Proper attic insulation means lower fuel costs.
- 4 Dampers in open fireplaces should be closed when the fireplace is not in use.
- 5 Hot water radiators will not heat effectively if air is in them. All air should be bled off.
- 6 Make sure your humidifier is working correctly. Proper humidification can contribute to heating economy and your comfort level.

Drop by our office and ask for our leaflets: "What every householder should know about carbon monoxide" and "Your home needs fresh air"

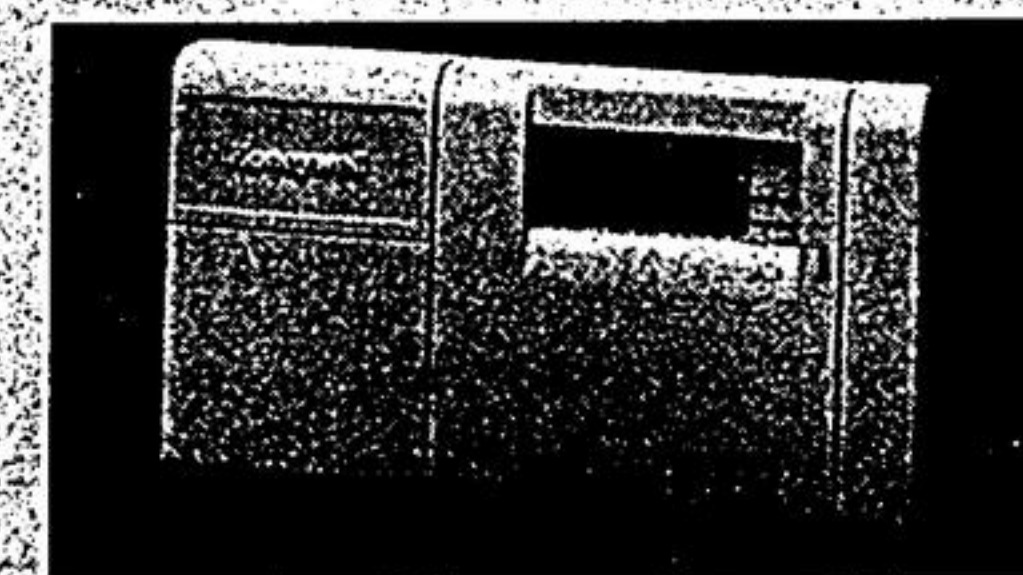


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