

HOME MATTERS



Loss prevention tips for all your home matters provided by: **Marshall & Sterling**

Did You Know?

The largest source of fire in American homes comes from fuel burning appliances?

The main causes of fire include: inadequate clearance between the wood burner and walls, floors and furniture; creosote buildup in the chimney; poorly or improperly installed chimneys and improper installation of the wood burner itself.

Wood Burning Stove Safety

Use these tips to safely use your wood burning stove:

- Read the instructions for your wood burning stove and follow them carefully.
- Inspect the firebrick liner in your stove, if you have one. Should the liner show signs of wear, replace it immediately and do not use the unit until the liner is replaced.
- Do not use flammable or combustible liquid (gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, etc.) to start a fire.
- Burn wood recommended by the manufacturer only.
- Do not burn plastic, wood or garbage that has been painted or treated with chemicals.
- Be sure to have properly maintained smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and an approved multi-purpose fire extinguisher in your home.
- Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. Doing so will cause the fire to heat up which will force toxic carbon monoxide into your house.
- Take extra care when disposing of hot ashes and remember that these embers may still be hot for several days.

Safety First

Solid fuel units tend to require a lot more maintenance than other heating systems. Therefore, regular inspections and care are needed to protect your home and family against fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

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