

Safe use of Open Fires, Stoves and Maintaining Chimneys

Chimney Sweeping

Sweeping your flue/chimney removes deposits which have built up due to the burning of carbon-based fuels, such as coal, wood, oil and gas. A clean chimney creates a clear and safe passage for gases caused by the burning process to escape. These gases are combustible and a clean chimney has a lower risk of catching fire.

Sweeping will also mean that objects such as nests, cobwebs and loose brickwork, which could obstruct the chimney, are removed.

For further technical information on chimney safety visit:

- The Guild of Master Sweeps – www.guild-of-master-sweeps.co.uk
- The National Association of Chimney Sweeps – www.nacs.org.uk
- The Association of Professional and Independent Chimney Sweeps – www.apics.org.uk

The main points to remember if you have an open fire or stove are to:

- Always use a spark guard to protect against sparks from hot embers, and if you have pets or young children consider using a safety guard.
- Make sure that the fire is out before going to bed at night or leaving the house.
- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained – make sure your chimney is swept regularly.
- make sure your chimney is swept according to the type of fuel used:
 - smokeless fuels need to be done at least once a year
 - bituminous coal at least twice a year
 - wood quarterly when in use
 - oil once a year
 - gas once a year
- Never interrupt the air supply by blocking air vents or air bricks.



We would like to remind all tenants that where carbon monoxide alarms are fitted, tenants must take responsibility for their own safety. All alarms should be tested regularly during the tenancy to make sure they are in working order and replace batteries when necessary. If your alarm does not work at present or you currently have no carbon monoxide alarm fitted and have a solid fuel burning appliance at your property please contact us immediately.