

IMPORTANT information about the CREOSOTE in your chimney:

WHAT IS CREOSOTE?



As gases and smoke exit the fireplace or wood stove, they draft upward into the cooler flue where **condensation** occurs. *Like hot breath on a cold mirror, the cool surface temperature of the flue causes the carbon particles in the warm vapor to solidify and stick to the inside of the flue.* This resulting carbon-based condensation that sticks to the walls of the flue is **creosote**. It can be the fine black dust called **soot**, (1st stage creosote); or porous and crunchy (2nd stage: see photo on left); or it can be tar-like, drippy and sticky, until it hardens into a shiny glaze, (3rd stage). Whatever form it takes, **creosote is highly combustible and very dangerous.**

**If creosote is not regularly cleaned out of the chimney, it WILL ignite!
All too often, the result is a VOLCANIC & EXPLOSIVE chimney fire!**



Your chimney can blow up like a bomb!



In Wyoming, the “howling” winds can mask the sound of a RAGING chimney fire! Creosote build-up may flare-up & burn inside a chimney for hours, without the homeowner even knowing it... **until the flaming explosion occurs!** Chimney fires are a MAJOR CAUSE OF HOME FIRES in the United States. Studies show that Creosote buildup is the #1 cause of chimney fires!

For the safety of your family, get your chimney professionally cleaned a MINIMUM of once each year... or twice each year if used often.

COMMON CAUSES OF CREOSOTE BUILD-UP:

- **INADEQUATE CLEANING:** Chimneys that are not regularly “swept” are prime candidates for chimney fires resulting from creosote buildup. We recommend having your chimney cleaned thoroughly a minimum of once each year, OR twice each year if you use your fireplace often. **We suggest that you schedule cleanings in the Spring or early Summer months, to get Spring chimney-cleaning discounts, and also to avoid the “mad rush” of appointments that begin in August.**
- **POOR QUALITY OF WOOD:** Soot and creosote buildup are indicators that your stove is not burning the fuel efficiently. This generally means that a lot of fuel and heat is going “up the chimney”, instead of burning up completely & giving heat to the home. This can be caused by burning very soft wood, or by burning damp wood, sappy wood, or by burning wood that has not been properly aged.
- **COOL FIRES:** Another cause of creosote buildup is burning small fires (called “cool” fires) instead of big “hot” fires. Note: **Use wisdom** when burning “big, hot fires”. It needs to be hot but not to the point where it’s “raging”. BE SAFE!!!
- **POOR STOVE DESIGN:** Often, the stove design itself is responsible for the buildup of creosote and soot. Old styles of stoves, as well as “Big-Box-Store” brands of stoves are very poorly designed, have poor efficiency, and do not burn cleanly.

A HIGH quality brand of wood-burning stove or insert can literally DOUBLE the amount of heat and efficiency, and virtually eliminate the production of excess creosote*. What that means to you as a homeowner is that you may have to buy, cut, stack, burn and clean **HALF AS MUCH WOOD** when compared with a lower quality stove. Many quality manufacturers have patented designs that produce almost NO CREOSOTE BUILDUP (*when manufacturer guidelines are observed)! That’s one of the advantages of purchasing a quality brand.

If you ever have any concerns or questions, we are always **so happy to assist you.** Just give us a call!

We wish you and your family many happy, cozy, and SAFE years ahead!

Magic City Stoves & Fireplaces

426 South Center Street, Casper, WY 82601 - 307-473-1016

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