

Chimney Safety Checklist

Walk through your fireplace and chimney with this list. No tools or ladder needed. **Check every box that's true for your home.** Your score at the bottom tells you what to do next.

Warning signs CHECK ANY THAT APPLY

- ☐ **1 It's been more than 12 months since the last inspection,** or you don't know. NFPA 211 calls for a yearly inspection.
- ☐ **2 Smoke drifts into the room** instead of going up the chimney.
- ☐ **3 You notice a smoky or campfire smell** when the fireplace is off, often worse on hot or humid days.
- ☐ **4 You see black, flaky, or shiny tar-like buildup** in the firebox or around the damper (with a flashlight). That's creosote.
- ☐ **5 You hear scratching or chirping, or find nesting material** in the fireplace. Birds and animals move into uncapped flues.
- ☐ **6 From the yard, the chimney cap looks missing, rusted, or bent.**
- ☐ **7 The chimney outside has cracked bricks, missing mortar, or white chalky stains.** Those stains mean water is getting in.
- ☐ **8 You see water stains** on the ceiling or walls near the chimney, or rust on the damper or firebox.
- ☐ **9 The damper sticks or won't close all the way,** or you're not sure how it works.
- ☐ **10 Gas fireplace:** the pilot won't stay lit, there's soot on the glass or logs, or you notice an odd odor when it runs.

0 checked

You're in good shape. Keep your yearly inspection on the calendar.

1–2 checked

Book an inspection before you use the fireplace heavily this season.

3+ checked, or #2, #5, #8

Call us before your next fire. Don't wait until the first cold snap.

Before the first fire

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor.
- Clear anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the hearth.
- Open the damper before you light the fire.
- Keep a screen or glass doors closed while it burns.

Every time you burn

- Burn only dry, seasoned hardwood.
- Never burn trash, cardboard, wrapping paper, or a Christmas tree.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Put ashes in a metal can with a lid, outside and away from the house.

Chimney Sweep + Level 1 Inspection · **\$229**

Before-and-after photos · Drop cloths and HEPA cleanup · 1-year workmanship warranty

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TEXT "CHIMNEY" to 817-946-8206