

About Gas-Inserts for Existing Fireplaces.

Gas inserts for existing fireplaces consist of a gas log set installed into a steel or cast-iron heat exchanger and are usually sealed on the front with glass. Many of these units have fans to move the heat, and are also available with remote controls, wall switches or wall-mounted thermostats.

Gas fireplaces have several advantages over wood burning fireplaces; the biggest advantage is energy efficiency. Vertically vented through the chimney, sealed inserts are 70-75 percent efficient and those that are vented directly out the wall can be up to 75 percent efficient.

Gas burns cleaner than wood and produces less air pollution. Because of the way the insert draws combustion air and then vents the gases through the chimney, it does not draw room air up the chimney. A fan draws room air into a heat exchanger where the air is heated before it is released back into the room.

Depending upon the current condition of your existing fireplace and other factors, you can expect to pay between \$500 and \$800 to have an insert and gas line professionally installed.

Gas inserts typically run \$1,400 - \$2,200 and come in many, many different styles to match your home's décor.

Gas inserts can heat up to 1,000 square feet of living space at a relatively small cost.