

Here are some helpful tips to keep your fireplace working properly.

- ❑ Remember on the initial burn of your gas fireplace to run it a minimum of 4 hours.
- ❑ Remember to clean your glass after your first 4 hour burn. Never use ammonia-based products!
- ❑ Remember to service your fireplace annually.
- ❑ Remember to dust and clean your fireplace before the beginning of burn season.
- ❑ If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- ❑ Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a 48-inch window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- ❑ When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly – approximately 1 inch – and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55°F.
- ❑ Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- ❑ Check the seal on the flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- ❑ Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.
- ❑ Use grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- ❑ Keep your fireplace clean!
- ❑ Use a toothbrush and Worcestershire sauce to keep brass shiny. You can scrub the brass knobs, or even the door or metal areas around the fireplace. This will help to keep the area clean and shiny for guests and future use.
- ❑ To prevent water damage, animal nesting, or other types of debris to obstruct the chimney, use a chimney cap.
- ❑ Keep the firebox cleaned out once a week during the time you use the fireplace. During this time, keep one inch of ash in the bottom, which works as an insulator to help coals heat faster and retain heat longer. During the months that the fireplace is not in use, remove all the ash.
- ❑ Before removing the ash from the firebox, open the damper, which will draw any flying ash up and not out into the room.
- ❑ Coals can stay hot for several days after a fire is extinguished, never use a vacuum cleaner to clean out the ash. You could easily end up with an unexpected fire.
- ❑ Slate hearths can be cleaned by using lemon oil. For cleaning brick, you can purchase actual brick cleaner from a fireplace store.
- ❑ Gas logs should be cleaned once a month by using a soft bristle brush and cleaned only when cool.
- ❑ Remove excess ashes and unburned logs from the fire for wood fireplaces periodically.