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THE INSTALLATION OF OTHER WOOD HEATING SYSTEMS

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The Installation of Fireplace Inserts and Hearthmount Stoves

One general rule that applies to the installation of all fireplace inserts is that there must be a full stainless steel chimney liner installed from the insert flue collar to the top of the chimney. The liner matches the flue to the size of the insert collar and isolates the flue gas from the masonry structure, retaining its heat and producing stronger draft. The liner also makes cleaning and servicing easier since it can be cleaned from the top of the chimney and the deposits can be removed from inside the insert. A full liner makes it unnecessary to remove the insert for cleaning, a procedure that is costly and can damage the hearth.

You should be aware that the installation of a fireplace insert or hearthmount stove and its chimney liner is a permanent installation. The structure of the masonry fireplace must be altered to complete the installation and it may not be possible to return it to its original condition if you change your mind later.

When an insert or hearthmount is installed in a fireplace, it is often necessary to extend the hearth to provide protection for the floor so that it is at least 450 mm (18 in.) beyond the front of the appliance. This hearth extension must be permanently mounted to the floor. Hearth rugs are not considered adequate floor protection.

While the installation of a fireplace insert may appear simple, it is not a do-it-yourself job. The existing fireplace and chimney must be cleaned thoroughly so that no creosote remains. The liner installation can be tricky and the correct materials must be used. Since modern inserts are intended for permanent installation and should not need removal for cleaning, you want to be sure that the connections are secure and that all materials used are corrosion-resistant. Professional installers know the potential trouble spots and how to avoid future problems.

The Installation of Advanced Factory-built Fireplaces

Because these fireplaces are installed against and enclosed by combustible building materials, great care must be taken during installation. The fireplace, its heating ducts, chimney, and other components are safety tested together as a unit. There are no general installation instructions for factory-built fireplaces; each one has its own distinct installation rules contained in the manufacturer's installation manual. The manual is checked and approved as part of the certification process. The only assurance you have that the fireplace will operate reliably and safely for many years to come is to make sure



that it is installed exactly according to the manufacturer's instructions. The installation of advanced factory-built fireplaces is not a do-it-yourself job. For a safe and effective system, use the services of trained professionals for the installation.

The Installation of Masonry Heaters

Masonry heaters are entirely different in design, construction and operation than conventional masonry fireplaces. The core of the heater, consisting of the firebox and heat exchanger, is made up of firebrick and a number of precast components made of high-temperature masonry materials. These are assembled by the heater mason and surrounded by the finish material, either brick or stone. The mason must be experienced in the construction of masonry heaters because simple errors can result in the failure of the heater in a short period of time. The clearances of a masonry heater to combustible construction must meet the requirements found in building codes for conventional fireplaces. The Masonry Heater Association of North America manages a heater-mason training and certification program. Your best assurance of an effective and durable unit is to have it designed and built by an MHA-certified heater mason.

The Installation of Pellet-burning Appliances

The installation guidelines for pellet-burning appliances are contained in the manufacturer's certified installation instructions. The instruction manual will provide details for clearances, the materials to be used for venting of the exhaust and the arrangement of vent components. Although some pellet appliances can be installed with through-the-wall vents, experience has shown that they operate more reliably when the venting system includes vertical rise. Ask the pellet appliance dealer about the correct venting arrangement.

Pellet stoves use an internal fan to draw in combustion air and to force the exhaust into the venting system. As a result, pellet-appliance venting systems often operate under positive pressure, so each joint must be sealed carefully to prevent leakage of exhaust into the house. Flue pipe, whether single or double wall, is never used in pellet stove installations.

To operate correctly, the pellet appliance must be connected to a proper venting system and the combustion fan and auger must be adjusted to burn the pellets correctly. Your best assurance of a successful installation is to have it done by an experienced professional.



The Installation of Central Heating Furnaces and Boilers

When considering central heating with wood, your heating retailer or contractor is your best source of information on available systems and their suitability for your home. Since the installation of central heating appliances is complex and requires several specialized skills, it is recommended that you hire professionals to do the work. All wood-burning furnaces and boilers must be certified as meeting a safety standard. During testing, the details of installation are determined. As a result, the installation rules for each central heating furnace or boiler can be different and will be found in the manufacturer's installation instructions. Also, installation is complicated and should be carried out by a trained professional. For these reasons, no details can be offered in this book on how these units should be installed.

