

# Chimney Checkup

Avoid costly surprises with this fall fireplace safety guide.

- **Schedule a Chimney Sweep:**

Clear out soot, creosote buildup, and debris that could become a fire hazard.

- **Inspect Masonry for Cracks or Damage:**

Look for loose bricks or missing mortar in the firebox or chimney; these can lead to dangerous heat transfer or collapse.

- **Clean the Firebox:**

Remove ash and debris from last season. For gas fireplaces, make sure pilot lights and burners are free of dust.

- **Check Gas Lines:**

Make sure visible gas lines are in good condition and sealed with high-heat caulking to prevent leaks.

- **Inspect the Damper:**

It should open, close, and seal properly to keep out drafts and pests.

- **Secure a Chimney Cap & Spark Screen:**

A rain cap prevents water intrusion and animals from nesting, while a spark screen reduces fire risk.

- **Trim Nearby Branches:**

Keep tree limbs at least 10 feet away from the chimney top.

A safe fire begins with a safe chimney

