

Chimney Check

Smart, Safe and
Cost-Effective
Home Maintenance



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are likely to be.

Soot and creosote accumulation can cause a chimney fire that can damage the chimney and potentially spread to the roof and home. Have soot and creosote removed for safe use of the fireplace and reduced risk of chimney fires. Furnace flue systems also require cleaning, so don't neglect regular cleaning of those venting systems.

Common Chimney Repairs

Flue Lining for chimneys with fireplaces help channel gas and heat outside, yet it is common for old homes not to have a liner at all. Chimney liners are costly to replace, make sure yours has a lifetime warranty.

Chimney Crown keeps water and other debris from getting inside your chimney and damaging your home. Water can hasten chimney deterioration. Look for cracks, rusted damper or firebox, damaged mortar joints, water damage to interior walls near your chimney.

Tuckpointing repairs damaged, mortar, loose, cracked or fragmenting bricks. It will provide more stability for your chimney.

A chimney that leans with loose bricks is a structural liability to a home. It will need to be entirely rebuilt and replaced. ■

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Staying on top of home exhaust system maintenance is the smartest, safest and most cost-effective plan a homeowner can have. Whether you have a wood-burning fireplace or gas-powered furnace, home exhaust systems should be checked regularly to confirm they are operating as designed. Even if a fireplace or wood-burning stove is minimally used, an annual inspection is advised for all heating venting systems, chimneys, stove systems and furnace flues. Any defects or issues found during those inspections require corrective action.

When To Inspect

Homeowners should schedule an inspection if:

- you've recently purchased a home;
- the chimney hasn't been inspected in more than a year;

- there are performance issues with your chimney, fireplace or heating system;
- heating systems have been changed or upgraded; or added a stove or insert.

Spring, summer or early fall is a great time to get your chimney inspected and/or cleaned.

Chimney Failure Causes

Chimneys that have not been used in a long time can become home to birds, squirrels, raccoons and other critters. Clearing out the accumulated debris from nesting activity will make it safe to use.

Winter freeze cycles and moisture combine to take a toll on masonry and liner materials, too. Over several years, normal wear and tear left unchecked will affect the performance of your system. The longer the defects go without being addressed, the more expensive the repairs

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