

Selecting the right type of fireplace for your space

Q: Do/I need a Fireplace or an Insert?

A: Fireplaces are complete systems designed to be installed where no fireplace exists.

An insert must slide into a functioning masonry fireplace with a working chimney.

Vented (Gas or Wood)

Vented fireplaces are capable of burning real wood or vented gas logs. Glass doors are optional. Not intended or designed for heat efficiency. A vertical pipe (double wall, air-cooled) extending up through the roof, is required, to vent this type of fireplace. These are a common alternative to masonry fireplaces.

Vent-Free Gas

These fireplaces do not have a chimney, or a vent, to the outside. They use the air in your home for combustion. Glass doors are not available. The combustion fumes exhaust into your room at low levels.

They will have an odor when in operation (similar to the smell of a kerosene heater). Vent-Free fireplaces are not intended to operate more than a couple hours at a time, due to the impact on your indoor air quality.

Consumers with allergies, asthma, infants or pregnant women in the home should be extremely cautious of a non-vented appliance.

In our professional opinion and experience, if you have the ability to install a vented or direct vent fireplace it is wise to do so. At the very least, do extensive research on consumer sites such as chimneysweeponline.com to read reviews of this type of fireplace.

Direct-Vent Gas

Available in heater-rated or furnace-rated models. The sealed firebox system has a fixed pane of glass. Direct-Vent technology uses one vent pipe to pull in outside air for combustion, while allowing exhaust fumes to exit. They can be vented horizontally, or vertically through the roof. A snorkel vent is even available for underground application.

Brands include:

Fireplace Xtrodinaire: fireplacex.com

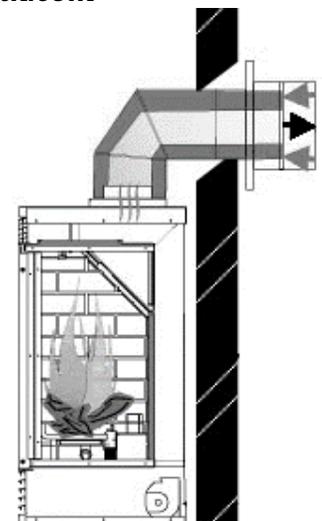
Kozy Heat: kozyheat.com

Mendota: mendotahearth.com

Valor: valorfireplaces.com

Town & Country:

townandcountryfireplaces.com



Q: How can I increase the efficiency of my fireplace and burn wood logs?

A: Wood burning inserts or heat exchangers are great options!

Wood Inserts

The inserts fit into your existing fireplace, to give you the heat performance of a wood stove. Inserts are designed to burn with the door shut. Blowers are often included to circulate the heat. A stainless steel liner must be installed into the chimney, to ensure safe operation and optimal performance. A high efficiency wood insert can extend burn times up to 8 hours. We recommend visiting woodheat.org for tips on getting the most out of your wood burning insert.

Heat Exchanger

This option is a wise choice for the recreational wood burner. The unit slides into your current masonry fireplace opening and has gasket-sealed ceramic glass doors on the front. A blower circulates heat back into the room

Q: What can I do to convert my current fireplace to gas?

A: You have several options. We suggest taking a photo of your current fireplace and completing our dimension worksheet. Then, stop by our showroom. We can show you each of the following products and assist you in making the best selection for your space.

Direct-Vent Gas Inserts

This option combines beauty and heat efficiency. The insert is an enclosed steel firebox, with logs or glass burner, sealed with a glass front, which fits into the current fireplace opening. The ceramic glass front allows heat to radiate through it, while preventing air, from within your room being pulled up the chimney. Inserts: with two flexible liners that connect top of the insert and extend up the chimney. One liner pulls in fresh air for combustion while the other takes exhaust fumes out the chimney. Inserts are furnace rated with efficiency ratings of at least 76%. Many models include blower fans to circulate heat as well as a remote control for operation. Brands include:

Fireplace Xtrodinaire: fireplacex.com

Mendota: mendotahearth.com

Valor: valorfireplaces.com

Kozy Heat: kozyheat.com

Vented Gas Logs

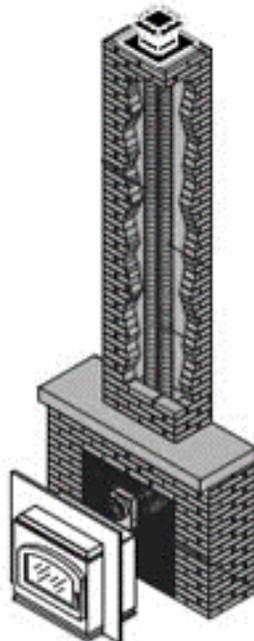
These require your fireplace opening and chimney to be functioning and code compliant. You will open your flue each time you light the logs. Vented gas logs are considered a decorative appliance and are not intended to be used as a heat source. A wide variety of sizes and styles are available. You can choose to match light or have a pilot system with remote control.

Brands include: Hargrove:

hargrovegaslogs.com

Vent-Free Gas Logs

(see notes regarding vent free products above)
These logs install into your existing fireplace. The chimney flue can remain closed during operation. They are heat efficient but are intended to run only a couple of hours at a time due to the effects of the combustion gases on your indoor air quality.



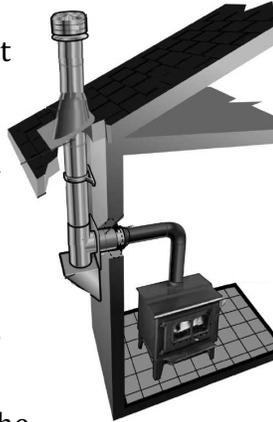
Q: I don't have an existing fireplace, and I want to add one that burns wood . . .

Is that possible?

A: Yes, location will be limited due to vertical vent pipe requirements.

Stoves (free standing)

These appliances are capable of heating small spaces or large areas up to 2,800 square feet. Stoves require a vertical chimney system to be installed and vent either up the inside of the home or out the side wall of the house and up above the roof line. A non-combustible hearth with appropriate rating must be used beneath and around the stove. The performance of the wood stove or any high efficiency wood appliance is very dependent on the end user. The type of wood you burn, the length of time it is seasoned, the way the fire is built and the chimney system are just a few factors that can affect the performance of a wood stove.



High-Efficiency Fireplaces

A heavy-gauge steel, insulated firebox, designed to produce the heat efficiency of a stove, with the built-in capability of a traditional fireplace. Most of these units are equipped with, or have the option to add a blower. Glass doors are required for performance.

Fireplaces

Zero-Clearance builder boxes have been used as a cost effective alternative to masonry fireplaces in new homes. A double-wall, air-cooled chimney is used to bring outside air in, to cool the flue and box. These are

Q: Where is it best to use an electric fireplace?

A: Any place that you want to add some decorative ambiance!

These are NOT going to produce enough heat to warm a room - they are used mainly for aesthetics.

Electric Inserts and Fireplaces

These models are perfect for ambiance, with little to no maintenance, or costly installation. Most models plug in to a standard 110v outlet. You should NOT expect this type of fireplace insert to heat your room. Electric fireplaces and inserts have a standard 5,000 BTU heater in them - the same heating element in a plug in space heater.

Realistically, this would heat a maximum area of 7' X 6' with a standard 8' ceiling.