

WOOD BURNER'S ALERT

To prevent chimney problems and a potential fire, please adhere to some simple basics when burning your stoves:

- 1.) When starting a fire, gradually allow temperature to increase. This reduces the chance of the stove and or flue cracking, particularly if the outside temperature is extremely cold. It is very important to burn stoves hot.... Between 500-600 degrees for at least several hours a day. Buy a temperature gauge and place it on the stack to monitor the temperature. Slow burn causes creosote build up and it can happen quickly. Burn stoves with the damper open at all times to avoid slow burn situations and eventual creosote build up. Wood consumption might be a tad higher over a winter, but it's a whole lot safer. Also it's a good idea to use Safety Flue chimney cleaner several times a week to dissipate the creosote that will accumulate in the stove and flue. This can be purchased at your local hardware store.
- 2.) Do not, under any circumstances, burn wet, soggy or icy wood. Cracked stoves, flues, and creosote will be the result. During the winter, it's absolutely essential to cover wood to avoid these problems. When choosing a cover for your wood pile, please use either an inexpensive clear poly film, tan or brown tarp.
- 3.) There has been an alarming increase in the dumping of woodstove ashes on decks and condominium property. Not only is this unsightly from an aesthetic point, but it is extremely dangerous. Ashes should be stored in a "coal hod" or similar metal container until cold and then placed in a trash bag and placed with the weekly trash for pick-up by the refuse company.
- 4.) Firewood should be stacked in a timely fashion and at least 2-3 feet from the unit, walkway, deck or supports. Please be sure the provider of your wood takes caution not to damage any trees/shrubs in the delivery process. It is an owner responsibility to see to it that all debris from the delivery process is cleaned up.

First and foremost, SAFETY should always be our number one concern! Using a little common sense today can avoid big expenses and perhaps higher condo fees in the future. More importantly, it could save property and lives!

Tip: *Sprinkling baking soda or a carpet deodorizer in your chimney clean-out will help eliminate some of the creosote odor experienced during damp weather.*

Thank you for your continued cooperation.