

HOME HEATING SAFETY



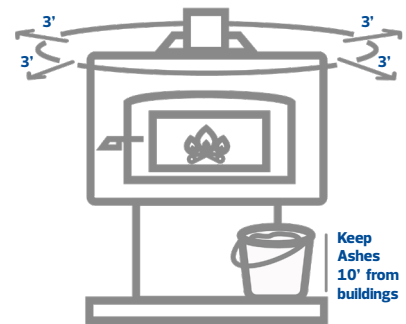
Be warm and safe this winter! Every year during the cooler months, home heating devices cause a number of fires throughout Edmonton. These simple tips can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

Maintain heating equipment.

- + All fuel-burning equipment (i.e., wood burning stoves) should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- + Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- + Never use your oven to heat your home.

Heating equipment needs space.

- + Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment (i.e., space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, etc.).
- + Establish a "kid-free" and/or "pet-free" zone at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.



Never use an open flame device to thaw frozen water pipes. If you are using a heater, never leave it unattended and ensure there is a 3 foot safety radius around the heater with no combustibles nearby.

ELECTRIC PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

- + Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- + Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- + Plug space heaters directly into the wall outlet; never use an extension cord.
- + Turn off and unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.
- + Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- + Don't dry wet items (i.e., socks, clothing, towels, shoe felts, etc.) on space heaters.

WOOD AND PELLET STOVES

You should always remember to...

- ❑ Burn only dry, seasoned wood in a wood stove.
- ❑ Burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets in a pellet stove.
- ❑ Clean the inside of the stove periodically using a wire brush.
- ❑ Allow ashes to completely cool before disposing of them in a covered, metal container.



PLAN AND PRACTICE
YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.
ALWAYS KNOW TWO WAYS OUT
OF EACH ROOM.



SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES
TEST YOUR ALARMS MONTHLY

STAY SAFE
SHEET

HOME HEATING SAFETY



FIREPLACES

- + Keep a metal screen or heat-tempered glass in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out and unwanted material from going in, as well as to help prevent burns.
- + Keep flammable materials away from the mantel.
- + Fully extinguish the fire when you leave the room, home, or go to sleep.
- + Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again, and will force carbon monoxide into the home.
- + It's always a good idea to crack a window open for a fresh supply of air.
- + Allow ashes to completely cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.

FURNACES

- + Ensure all furnace controls and emergency shut-offs are in proper working condition.
- + Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discoloured, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- + Check that flue pipes and pipe seams are supported and free of holes and cracks. Soot along or around seams may indicate a leak.
- + Always keep furnace access covers in place.
- + Be sure to lubricate your furnace fan twice a year. Always use proper oil and turn the furnace off prior to removing the access cover.
- + Replace furnace filters regularly.