



HEREFORD & WORCESTER  
**HWFR**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



## Is your chimney or wood-burner due a clean?

Open fires and wood-burners are an effective way to stay warm at home. Keeping your chimney clean can help prevent fires and structural damage to your property.

### How often should my chimney be swept?

Chimneys should be swept according to the type of fuel being used:

- **At least once a year** for smokeless fuels or bituminous coal;
- **Every three months** for wood;
- **Once a year** for oil or gas.

### For details of approved chimney sweeps in your area visit:

- [www.apics.org.uk](http://www.apics.org.uk)
- [www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)
- [www.nacs.org.uk](http://www.nacs.org.uk)

Always use an approved chimney sweep who is able to provide you with a certificate upon completion of their work.



**PREVENTION**

[www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)

# Chimney fire advice

## Fuel for thought!

- Keep chimneys, flues and appliances **clean and well maintained**.
- Take care when using open fires – always **use a fire guard** to protect against flying sparks from hot embers.
- Ensure the fire is **fully extinguished** before going to bed or leaving the house.
- **Never interrupt the air supply** by blocking air bricks, vents or flues.
- Never store fuel next to the appliance.
- **Never use flammable liquids** such as petrol or paraffin to light your fire.
- **Never burn rubbish or paper.**
- **Never overload the fire** with fuel.
- When the fire is alight, occasionally look in the loft and check for smoke from cracks, defective brickwork or mortar joints.
- **Get a carbon monoxide alarm** fitted and have appliances installed and serviced by a **qualified and competent engineer**.

Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on every floor of your home and get a carbon monoxide alarm fitted.

## If a chimney fire happens...



### Get out

Leave the room, close the door and alert other people on your way out of the house.



### Call 999

Once out of the house, call 999 and ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.



### Stay out

Do not return to the house for any reason until the Fire & Rescue Service arrive.

## Further information

For more information or advice call us on 0800 032 1155, or complete a FREE online Home Fire Safety Check by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc)

