



A CURE FOR THE FLUE

The FLUE REVIEW

a newsletter from

CHIM-CHIMINEY SWEEPERS



Hello!

It's been another year gone by since the sibling companies of Chim-Chimney Sweepers and Home Comfort Hearth & Patio have sent out our newsletter. Since we just redid our website, I thought this would be a good way to deliver the newsletter to you as well. Our regular customers should have received a postcard directing you to here. Chimney sweeping has that Victorian England flavor to it, but we can deliver our services in a 21st century way!

Please check out our website now that you're here. I think it's has good information for you about our companies, our services and our products. There's also a bunch of photos of installations we have been involved in, with an emphasis on our unique ability to provide most of the services that may be required like products, framing, tiling, plumbing, venting, and more - all from one source. You just deal with one contractor - us.

Many of us in this business are obsessed with fire, fireplaces and chimneys. Take me anywhere in the world and my head is always tilted toward the sky checking out the chimneys. Our new website reflects that with a large gallery of photos from all over the USA, Italy, France, England and Denmark.. These chimneys and fireplaces are where masons and other craftsmen strut their stuff, showing off their best work for all the world to see. Thank you very much for your business. Let us know how we can help you.

Good luck to you, Mike

Inside:

Page 2: Custom Installs Our Specialty. Annual Gas Service. We Are Proud...

Page 3: Valuable Coupon. A Little History of Curfews. Customers Are...

Page 4: Zone Heating Saves Money. New Regulations continued.

Jackson County and Its Cities Pass New Woodstove Regulations

The Rogue Valley just doesn't have great air flow. Years ago, the Valley was often filled with nasty and unhealthy smoke and dust pollution from a number of different sources. Woodstoves were a popular home heating choice and were definitely a contributor to poor air quality. But, in the last twenty years or so, industry sources have decreased substantially, woodstove use has lessened and new woodstoves since 1986 have met strict clean air standards. New woodstoves, certified by the Oregon DEQ and the federal EPA, produce up to one tenth of the particulate pollution of the older generation products.

For the last 20 years, the Rogue Valley air quality has met the clean air standards. However, the Valley does such a bad job of ventilating that it's always on the pollution watch radar. Some say that we're second only to the Los Angeles in pollution potential. Now, the standards are being tightened for the whole country in regard to fine particles in the air. Particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10) pose a health concern because they can be inhaled into and accumulate in the respiratory system. Particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM2.5) are referred to as "fine" particles and are believed to pose the largest health risks. Because of their small size (less than one-seventh the average width of a human hair), fine particles can lodge deeply into the lungs.

Uncertified woodstoves are a contributor to this nasty stuff. Many woodstoves have been replaced over the years and that's been great for the air we breathe. Happily, these new generation woodstoves (and inserts) are also twice as efficient as the old ones, have glass windows that keep fairly clean and are generally able to be placed closer to walls and corners. However, there are still some older units out there. Some are still being used regularly and some are sitting unused, but still hooked up, in people's homes. It's the aim of these new regulations throughout Jackson County to replace these remaining wood burning, uncertified dinosaurs.

Note that pellet stoves are not subject to the certification process because they are inherently clean burning. Fireplaces are exempt from this ordinance. Antique stoves
(continued on page 4)

Custom Fireplaces Our Specialty

Mary spent a night in a resort room with a marble trimmed gas fireplace and she fell in love. Not with a person (except for her husband Chuck of umpteen years), but with the beauty, warmth and ambiance of the cozy hearth.

So Mary and Chuck wandered into Home Comfort Hearth & Patio looking to add a gas fireplace to their house. Together with the Home Comfort crew, they designed a corner fireplace that would transform their house, adding a focal point and comfort that will change their house into a home.



Every aspect of the project was taken care of by Home Comfort. From running the gas lines to framing in the new fireplace; from covering the new corner wall too installing the marble surround, Home Comfort took care of it all. This was a project requiring many different skills and trades. Organizing it could have been a nightmare for Chuck and Mary. Home Comfort's experience in gas plumbing, carpentry, tile work and stove installation meant they were only dealing with one company. At other stores they were told they would have to deal with four contractors.

Mary's vision turned into reality. Her dream came true.

Walt and Sandy, out in Sam's Valley bought a

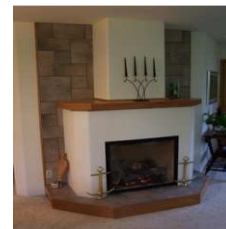


beautiful, hilltop house with a large open great room / dining room / kitchen area with eleven foot beamed ceilings. But, something was missing. Their dream was to add a fireplace along one wall with river rock from floor to ceiling and a stone hearth in front. At

Home Comfort they found the propane gas fireplace they wanted and we built an eight foot wide fireplace ready for the stone mason. It seemed to be a part of the original design.

Stone hearths, tile surrounds, mantels, corner installations or in the middle of the wall; wood, gas or pellet – Home Comfort has helped many customers

transform their homes into cozy refuge and add value as well. A well installed stove or fireplace is a treasure for years to come.



Annual Gas Service

It's there in black and white. Manufacturers of gas appliances recommend that their stoves, fireplaces and inserts be checked out a least annually. Gas appliances are about as safe, easy and maintenance free as a heating appliance can be...if everything is in good working order. Due to the heat and moisture inherent in burning gas, parts do wear out, burner holes clog up and glass fogs up with deposits that can permanently etch the glass.

A check-up service call from Home Comfort will clean the stove, insert or fireplace, assure you that your gas appliance is safe, in good operating condition and provide an early warning of signs of wear or problems to come. On our service call, we will bring a checklist into your home to assure that no area is neglected. We will clean the glass, firebox, burner and logs. The orifice, venting, gaskets and air shutters will be inspected. Electrical tests will be made to audit the basic millivolt system for possible problems or wear. If possible, circulating fans will be oiled. Some units use batteries. We have replacements on hand.

We Are Proud...

Of our two National Fireplace Institute Certified Gas Specialists: Lisa and Scott. Certification requires passing a comprehensive test of knowledge in this area.

Chimney Sweep Brian has passed his Oregon Chimney Sweep Association's certification test as well. This certification demonstrates his knowledge of applicable Oregon building codes, safety concerns and wood and pellet burning theory and practice.

To maintain these certifications, all three must attend many workshops throughout the year to keep their knowledge sharp.



Give Us Your Feedback!

We are interested in knowing what you think of our revamped website. Please email us at the address you'll find at the bottom of each web page. We'll enter you into a raffle for a \$150 gift certificate for either Home Comfort's or Chim-Chimney's services. (Yes we are going to record your email address. But, we have no intention of using it to annoy you with garbage mail. Promise. Very infrequently, we will let you know of a new newsletter or Spring sale. If you don't want us to do that, let us know in the email.) Thanks very much!

A Little History of Curfews

With the acquisition of fire came the problem of preserving it and interesting examples of ingenuity exist. First, the fire was buried. Next a slow match or fire-stick was developed. And later, when we started working with metals, the curfew or in French "couver feu" or fire cover was invented. The coals were raked together and the curfew set over them. Thus, the fire was preserved until morning. These curfews were sheet brass with perforations and a handle.

A community was informed of the time to cover the fires by the beating of a drum or ringing of a bell. In 1068, in the reign of William the Conqueror, the bells were rung by law at seven in the evening so that all might cover the fire and extinguish the lights as a black out against an enemy locating the village. This also prohibited nocturnal assemblies. And so, the modern meaning of curfew came to be.

Customers Are...

- The most important people in any business.
- Not dependent on us, we are dependent on them.
- Not an interruption to our work, but the purpose of it.
- Do us a favor when they call. We are not doing them a favor by serving them.
- Part of our business - not outsiders.
- Not a cold statistic. They are flesh and blood human beings with feelings much like our own.
- Not someone to match wits with.
- People who bring us their wants. It is our job to fill those wants.
- Deserving of the most courteous and considerate treatment.
- The people who enable us to earn a living.
- The life blood of this and every other business.

Pacific Energy Woodstoves and Inserts are on **sale** until October 8, 2007



**EPA CERTIFIED WOODBURNING
STOVES AND INSERTS AND FIREPLACES**

**GAS, PELLET AND ELECTRIC
STOVES AND INSERTS AND FIREPLACES**

**Come in ... browse our great selection
and talk to our helpful staff!**

166 S. Main, Phoenix. 535-3080

224 SW 'G' St, Grants Pass 955-4446

Check out the web page for helpful directions.

\$100 OFF

**YOUR NEXT
FIREPLACE OR STOVE**

**MUST PRESENT THIS
COUPON**

**NOT VALID WITH ANY
OTHER DISCOUNT**

VALID UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2007

Zone Heating Saves Money By Heating the Rooms You Live In

Customers have turned down the thermostats to control high home heating bills. They can also save money by having a gas, wood or pellet heater-rated fireplace or stove installed in the main living areas of the home. Besides energy savings, an efficient fireplace adds to the warmth, ambiance and decorative focus. The hearth is the center of the home.

Hearth products save money because their focus is on zone heating. They heat only the necessary living areas of the home, not the little used ones. Radiant heat from these products is a more effective heat than is associated with whole house circulating systems.

Circulating air duct heating systems move molecules around your home that are heated to just barely above the comfortable temperature you seek. A radiant heater like our gas, wood and pellet stoves and fireplaces actually heats each molecule, including the ones in the furniture and your body. Each molecule that makes up the objects in the room are jiggled faster making the heat that we say "warms you to the bone" and that is actually what happens!

At **Home Comfort Hearth and Patio**, we strive to provide one stop shopping for the purchase and installation of your fireplace. In addition, we pride ourselves in our custom work which may include design and installation of mantles, tiling, framing and plumbing.

New Regulations

(from page 1)

manufactured before 1940 are also exempt.

In Libby Montana, plagued by a very bad air inversion situation as well as a tragic asbestos mining health disaster, the hearth industry partnered with the government to bring about a massive stove changeout last fall. Locals cannot remember a winter where the air was so clear and initial studies show that indoor air quality, so crucial to those affected by asbestosis, improved 71%.

Being ten times cleaner burning and twice as efficient, certified wood burning appliances are comparatively a no brainer, but replacement is an expense. I guess figuring that when a house is sold, it is a good time to detect these non-certified stoves and because (sort of) no out of pocket money would be required, the new regulations target woodstove replacement or removal during the home sale period.

The new regulations read, in part:

"Jackson County (and separately each of the County's cities) Ordinance will now require the presence of solid fuel heating devices (i.e. wood stoves and fireplace inserts) to be disclosed in all real estate transactions. If any non-certified solid fuel heating devices are present in a structure they must be removed and destroyed by the seller (with a receipt of destruction) prior to the closing of the sale (or by the buyer, within thirty days after the closing, if so agreed in writing)."

Stoves certified by the DEQ have a permanent DEQ label typically attached on the rear. This label shows tested smoke emissions and heating efficiency performance. The DEQ labels were used from 1985 through 1989, when they were replaced with the permanent EPA label. If your

stove has a DEQ or EPA label, then it is certified. See the EPA List of Certified Woodstoves at:

www.epa.gov/compliance/monitoring/programs/caa/whcert.html.

Many people ask if they can somehow get their uncertified woodstove certified. The answer is no. Certification is completed by stove manufacturers when introducing a new model line. To meet certification requirements, stoves must have pollution control systems built into them. Certification typically cost a stove manufacturer \$10,000-\$15,000 per model.

It is the seller's responsibility to take care of this matter. The realtors have a mandatory disclosure form. Proof of removal can be established by a receipt from a metal scrap yard.

While simply removing the uncertified appliance may be a possible solution, having an unused pipe system or open fireplace will not help the home's sale, so many or even most people opt to replace their units prior to putting their house on the market either with a certified wood burning stove or insert, a natural gas or propane unit or a wood pellet unit. Of course, if you know that selling your home is in the future, why not enjoy the benefits of having a better heating appliance now?

Home Comfort Hearth & Patio sells only certified wood burning stoves, inserts and fireplaces. We also have a fine selection of pellet, gas and electric stoves and fireplaces. We will remove and discard an uncertified stove and install a certified or alternative appliance.