

Fremont

Building Official

Code Enforcement

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WOOD STOVES

Installation of solid fuel burning appliances requires a permit through the Building Officials Office. Permits are required for all types of solid fuel appliances; pellet stoves and wood stoves. This information sheet predominately addresses wood stoves but the material applies also to other types of solid fuel burning stoves. This sheet does not address chimneys specifically nor does it attempt to address fireplaces of any type. Local building codes and manufacturer specifications apply; of direct regulating influence is NFPA 211 and ICC building codes

Install a wood stove with adequate clearances from any combustible surfaces, including floors, furniture and walls (plaster, drywall, and paneling are all combustible products). The installation clearances are generally taken from the manufacturer's installation instructions. All stoves should be "listed" to insure they have been properly safety tested by an independent testing lab; this also insures there will be manufacturer's recommendations for all clearances from combustibles.

Any chimney, new or existing, must have adequate capacity, correct height, and proper clearances from combustibles. Connectors for residential appliances with inside diameters less than or equal to 10 inches are permitted to pass through walls or partitions of combustible material provided the connector is installed meeting conditions and clearances as specified within NFPA 211.

- Solid fuel burning appliances shall not be installed in any garage per NFPA 211 Section 12.2.4
- All chimney connections per NFPA chapter 9.
- Galvanized steel pipe is not to be used per NFPA 211 12.4.1.2
- Minimum clearances from combustible walls and ceilings – to be determined by type and manufacturer's installation instructions – standard clearance without use of manufacturer's installation instructions and/or clearance reduction methods shall be a minimum of 36 inches.
- Floor protection required – to be determined by height from floor and manufacturer's installation instructions – otherwise maximum protection shall be provided as 4" of hollow core masonry positioned such to provide free circulation of air through the core spaces and to be covered by minimum of 24 gauge metal. Legs or pedestals providing less than 2 inches of clearance shall not be mounted on combustible floors.
- Side, front and back extension protections are to be determined by manufacturers instructions but in no case shall be less than 12 inches beyond all sides without openings and 18 inches beyond for all sides with openings (firebox door or draft)
- Heavy gauge stove pipe – generally 24 gauge is required.
- Secure all joints with sheet metal screws and connect pipe with crimped end pointing downward to contain creosote.
- Connector clearances from combustibles – to be determined by type, manufacturer's installation instructions and per NFPA tables – standard clearance without reductions methods shall be a minimum of 18 inches.

After a proper installation of the wood stove the efficiency and safety of the stove becomes largely dependent upon the skill of the owner/operator. Wood stoves require regular maintenance; regular homeowner inspections and proper cleaning. Radiant heating devices can have surface temperatures of over 400 degrees F while generating stack/chimney internal temperatures around 1000 degrees F and should a chimney fire occur temperatures in excess of 2000 degrees are possible. Wood stove operation needs to be treated with respect to insure that the unit does not create a hazardous situation

in the home. Handling of ashes is also an important safety consideration. Chimneys should be inspected at least once a year. A chimney installed on the outside of the building tends to operate at lower temperatures and is likely to have creosote deposits more frequently and require additional maintenance.

It is recommended to have at least a 10 lb ABC type fire extinguisher available. Smoke detectors within the household are a must. Understand and develop any new fire evacuation routes possibly created by the placement of the wood stove as the means of evacuation could be obstructed should the wood stove become the source of a fire hazard.