

# CARING FOR YOUR WOOD FIREPLACE

## Wood-burning fireplaces produce heat that warms your heart and home!

Nothing compares to the warmth of a crackling fire, the smell of a woodburning fire and the comfort and ambiance a wood fireplace creates. In addition to this enjoyment, are the benefits of a reduced heating bill—as long as your wood fireplace is burning efficiently and performing to its potential.

#### **Burn Quality Dry Wood**

The wood you use in your fireplace impacts your heat output. Use dry hardwood, such as oak or maple, with a moisture content between 18-22%. Wood moisture meters can be purchased for under \$25. Wood with high moisture burns less efficiently, produces less heat, and can create creosote build up. To achieve quality, dry firewood, you'll need to cut the wood to length; split the wood; and store it. Splitting your firewood is important for it to dry properly. Split logs to less than six-inches in diameter. Then store the firewood in a dry place like a shed or under a tarp for a year to let it season. If you are storing your wood under a tarp, uncover the wood during summer months so the sun and wind can dry the wood. In arid regions, your wood may dry in less time, depending upon your weather, climate and type of wood.

#### **Utilize a Layer of Ash**

Many people believe they need to use a grate with their wood-burning fireplace, but many grates create too much elevation and lower the fire temperature. Instead of using a grate, place your dry hardwood logs directly on a one-inch layer of fireplace ash at the bottom of your firebrick. The ash will provide enough elevation for the dry hardwood logs to breathe, and the ash

will insulate the coals. Ash at the bottom of your firebox also maintains red hot coals that will slow down the fire burning rate and increase burn time so your fire will burn hotter and last longer. When the fireplace ash exceeds the depth of one-inch you can remove the excess before starting your next fire.

#### **Chimney Drafting & Outdoor Air Temperature**

When outdoor air temperature is cold, air travels faster and fireplaces burn hotter and faster. When outdoor air temperature is warm, air is heavier and travels slower. Knowing this, you'll need to adjust your combustion air controls for fireplace performance. During warmer seasons, open your combustion air controls more fully, up to 100%, to allow more air in. During colder seasons, close the combustion air controls to about 50%. This will reduce airflow to your fireplace and help keep your fireplace glass cleaner.

#### **Wood Fireplace Maintenance**

Acucraft highly recommends that you have your flue professionally inspected and cleaned every year to remove creosote buildup and ensure that your fireplace is performing safely. The most common causes of creosote buildup are burning soft, moist, or wet wood and using newspaper as a firestarter. Safer choices are using wax and sawdust firestarters, and they work great with kindling. If you use your fireplace often, use a creosote spray a few times per wood burning season to minimize creosote buildup between chimney sweeps. A creosote spray will not replace the need for an actual chimney sweep with a brush, but will help to maintain a cleaner fireplace and chimney system. In addition to having your fireplace professional inspected and cleaned, Acucraft offers Wood Care Kits for the maintenance of your fireplace.

When you love your wood fireplace, it will love you back!

# WOOD CARE KITS

Acucraft Wood Care Kits include the essentials you need to properly maintain your fireplace.

**EACH WOOD CARE KIT INCLUDES THESE QUALITY ITEMS:** 



#### FIREPLACE CLEANER

- · Creosote Removal
- · Soot Cleaning
- · Fireplace Cleaning
- · Hearth Cleaning
- · Glass Cleaning



#### INTERIOR / EXTERIOR HIGH-TEMP BLACK SPRAY PAINT

- High-heat spray paint for firebox touch-ups
- Tough protective enamel offers excellent color retention



### ACUCRAFT WOOD CARE KITS

**5 7 5** For single-sided fireplaces

\$95

For double-sided fireplaces (see-through and inside/outside fireplaces)

#### **LOCTITE COPPER ANTI-SEIZE**

- Lubricates and protects metal parts from rust, corrosion, galling and seizing on high-temperature applications
- Recommended use for air control linkages
- · Brush-top can for ease of use
- Operating temperature: -20°F to 1800°F



### DRY GRAPHITE POWDERED LUBRICANT

- Lubricates and reduces friction in parts so they slide or rotate easily
- Recommended use for door handles that need lubrication
- Nozzle tip for easy insertion



#### **EMERY CLOTH**

- 100% waterproof sand cloth, ideal for cleaning and polishing
- Bonding system provides exceptional grain retention and durability under the most severe conditions
- Recommended use prior to linkage lubrication





#### **DOOR & GLASS GASKETING**

- Door and glass replacement gasketing for repairs, if necessary
- Glass gasketing comes with an adhesive backer
- Door gasketing is replaced using high-temp silicone



#### **HIGH-TEMP SILICONE**

- Rated up to 500°F
- Used to repair or replace door gasketing
- Tack-free in minutes and fully cures in approximately 24 hours, no heat required

