

Chimineas

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Note: The use of Chimineas or any other outdoor wood-burning fireplace requires a Fire Permit for use within the Township of Tiny.

Chimineas have become a popular item for backyard recreational enjoyment. Over the last few years they have been available through retail chain stores and home centres. The popularity of Chimineas is still growing and due to this popularity, it is more important than ever for consumers to be aware of how to safely use and care for this unique "firepot."

The quality of Chimineas currently available varies dramatically. At one end of the spectrum, there are the basic terra-cotta clay models, some of which are not baked or kiln dried. Many of these models are not painted or sealed to help protect the clay from the weather. At the other end of the spectrum are the El barro clay models, which typically have been fired and upon drying are painted and/or sealed.

Cast iron or aluminum Chimineas are considered a better product as they require lower maintenance and are more durable than other models. However, they retain more heat than the clay models, thus present a greater burn injury hazard.

Price does not dictate whether or not you have purchased the best or the worst model. However, regardless of what type of Chiminea you have, there is some maintenance involved.

Chimineas are for **OUTDOOR USE ONLY**, and should **NEVER** be burned indoors!

General Safety Tips:

Although most people are conscientious, there are a few "common sense" tips just to be on the safe side.

- Recommend that a fire extinguisher be available when burning in your Chiminea. A small 5 lb. ABC dry chemical extinguisher should do fine.
- Never leave your fire unattended.
- Do not touch the outside of the Chiminea while it is in use or immediately after use.
- Be aware of children and pets.
- Never use gasoline or other petroleum based accelerants to get the fire going.
- Do not extinguish your Chiminea fire with water.

Positioning Your Chiminea:

Be sure to find a level, immovable, non-combustible surface for which to set your Chiminea. It should be placed at least a minimum of 7m from combustibles such as a fence, deck, house/cottage, etc. Be sure there is nothing above your Chiminea, i.e. branches, awnings, umbrellas or anything else that could potentially catch on fire. Remember; do not put your Chiminea in a gazebo, or enclosed porch.

Insulate:

It is important to insulate the bowl of the Chiminea so the fire is not directly against the clay. Add sand or pea gravel to the bowl to approximately 10cm below the lower lip of the mouth.

NEVER use lighter fluid or any other type of flame enhancing material. The clay can absorb the liquid.

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Do Not Burn:

- Pressure treated wood (emits toxic gases when burned)
- Anything that will produce dense black smoke, i.e. plastics, rubber
- Herbicides, pesticides or any other toxic material
- Pellets (they tend to burn very hot)
- Charcoal

Cautions:

- There have been reports of the bottoms falling out of both clay and metal Chimineas. This supports the importance of placing it on a non-combustible surface.
- Gusts of wind have been known to blow hot embers onto dry grass, decks or neighbouring properties causing fires.
- Use extreme care when opening the front grill when a fire is in progress. Ensure a non-combustible surface extends out 18" from the front of the Chiminea to protect the area from falling burning material.

If you have further questions regarding Chimineas, call the Township of Tiny Fire Department at:

(705) 322-1161