



Fireplace Completion Inspection

This inspection guide answers common questions and provides a checklist of deficiencies.

Why is the fireplace inspected?

The completion of the fireplace is inspected to ensure that the geometry of the fireplace opening, flue size and chimney height will promote sufficient draft to convey smoke and gases outdoors under most conditions. In addition, verify that combustible finishes are not exposed to high temperatures.

When must an inspection be requested?

The fireplace or wood stove completion inspection is conducted after the mantel and finishes are installed, and prior to the use of the fireplace.

What is involved during an inspection?

Your certified WETT inspector reviews the fireplace or wood stove for compliance with the building permit drawings, manufacturer's installation instructions and the Ontario Building Code.

The following is a list of the 7 major areas that are inspected:

- Fireplace design
- Damper
- Firebox lining
- Mantel
- Combustion air duct
- Hearth
- Depressurization

The construction progress, including Building Code deficiencies, are documented on a Field Inspection Report issued by the WETT inspector immediately after the site inspection and submitted to the Building Department.

What can I do before the inspection?

Your involvement in the inspection process is critical. A review of the construction prior to the inspector's arrival can help to ensure a smooth flow in the construction of your project. To help you achieve this, we have assembled a checklist of the most common Building Code deficiencies found while performing inspections. Please refer to the reverse side of this Information Sheet to complete the checklist.

How do I request an inspection?

You may call for an inspection during regular business hours at 519-776-6476. Please provide the following 5 pieces of information:

1. Building Permit number
2. Type of Inspection (see your Building Permit Card)
3. Date inspection requested
4. A.M. or P.M. Inspection time (where scheduling allows)
5. Contact name and phone number

Looking ahead

The next inspection will be Interior Final. Ask your building inspector for the Interior Final Information Sheet or call us at 519-776-6476 and we will gladly send it to you.

Fireplace Completion Inspections

This form identifies the most common Ontario Building Code deficiencies found while performing fireplace rough-in inspections. Use this form as a guide during construction, and reduce your costs associated with the repair of Building Code deficiencies. Not all Building Code requirements could be included in this form.

Prior to calling for an inspection, verify that the relevant items have been completed satisfactorily. While some items may not apply to your project, please consider each one carefully. Indicate “yes” as completed or “N.A” as not applicable.

The following table asks 1 Fireplace Design Question:

| Fireplace Design | Indicate Yes or NA |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. The size of the fireplace opening does not exceed the maximum permitted for the size and height of flue size installed | |

The following table asks 2 Damper Questions:

| Damper Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Check damper for proper operation. | |
| 2. For fireplace inserts, the damper is removed or fixed open. | |

The following table asks 3 Firebox Lining Questions:

| Firebox Lining Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Firebrick or the steel liner is installed within the fire box, face brick must not be exposed within the fire box, i.e. above the damper towards the front of the fireplace. | |
| 2. Firebrick installed in high temperature cement mortar. | |
| 3. Steel liners are installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. | |

The following table asks 4 Mantel Questions:

| Mantel Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. 150 mm (6 inches) clearance to combustibles is maintained from the fireplace opening. | |
| 2. Mantel is a minimum of 300 mm (1 foot-0 inches) | |
| 3. Clearances around the opening for factory-built fireplaces conform to the manufacturer's installation instructions. | |
| 4. 50 mm (2 inches) clearance from combustible material is maintained around the damper control mechanism. | |

The following table asks 4 Combustion Air Duct Questions:

| Combustion Air Duct Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Exterior intake protected against rain and has an insect screen. | |
| 2. Interior outlet located close as possible to fireplace opening. | |
| 3. Interior outlet designed to prevent embers | |
| 4. Factory-built fireplaces and steel fireplace liners are installed to manufacturer's installation instructions. | |

The following table asks 3 Hearth Questions:

| Hearth Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. A non-combustible hearth is provide for all fireplaces. | |
| 2. The hearth width is increased for hearths elevated more than 150 mm (6 inches) above the hearth extension. | |
| 3. Special conditions apply for hearth extensions on combustible floors, ask your building inspector. | |

The following table asks 2 Depressurization Questions:

| Depressurization Questions | Indicate Yes or NA |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Carbon monoxide detectors for solid fuel burning combustion appliances such as a wood burning fireplace or stove are a requirement of a mechanical ventilation system designed in conformance with Part 9 of the Ontario Building Code, but are not required in a system designed in conformance with Part 6, unless the designer specifies otherwise. | |
| 2. Part 9 mechanical ventilation systems require carbon monoxide detectors to be: A) Installed in each room containing a fireplace or wood stove. B) Installed with no disconnect between the detector and the overcurrent device. C) Audible from the sleeping areas when intervening doors are closed. D) Installed with a heat recovery ventilator. | |

Contact:

For more information, please contact the Building Department:

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