



Fireplace Rough-In Inspections

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

Why is a fireplace inspected?

A fireplace or wood stove are inspected at the roughed-in stage to ensure that the required level of fire safety has been achieved through adequate venting, masonry thickness' and clearances to combustibles.

When must an inspection be requested?

A fireplace rough-in inspection is conducted after the rough opening is constructed and prior to the installation of the firebrick and covering materials, for example, brick or gypsum board.

What is involved during an inspection?

Your certified WETT inspector reviews the roughed- in fireplace for compliance with the building permit drawings manufacturer's installation instructions and the Ontario Building Code. The following is a list of the 9 major areas that are inspected.

- Chimney
- Hearth Extension
- Wall thickness
- Clearances
- Smoke chamber
- Factory-built fireplaces
- Fireplaces inserts
- Steel liners
- Combustion air

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

Your next inspection will be insulation.

Fireplace Rough-In 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 5 Chimney Questions:

Chimney Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Chimney cap, flashing and drip installed. (Flashing required for jointed chimney caps.)	
2. Clean out provided, except serving masonry fireplace.	
3. The wood header installed higher than the bottom most flue tile, and separated from the tile by an airspace plus 190 mm (7.5 inches) of solid masonry.	
4. Flue liners in the same chimney are separated by a minimum of 75 mm (3 inches of masonry).	
5. Chimneys for factory-built fireplaces are as	

The following table asks 3 Hearth Extension Questions:

Hearth Extension Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Reinforcing bars installed for concrete hearth.	
2. Minimum of 400 mm (1 foot-4 inches) hearth extension and 200 mm (8 inches) at the sides.	
3. Size of the hearth extension is greater than	

The following table asks 1 Wall Thickness Question:

Wall Thickness Question	Indicate Yes or NA
1. A minimum of 2 rows of bricks or 190 mm (7.5 inches) thick masonry for the back and sides of the fireplace.	

The following table asks 2 Clearances Questions:

Clearances Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Maintain 12 mm (0.5 inches) and 25 mm (1 inch) clearance from an exterior and interior masonry chimney to combustibles, respectively.	
2. Maintain 50 mm (2 inches) and 100 mm (4 inches) clearance from an exterior and interior fireplace to combustibles, respectively.	

The following table asks 2 Smoke Chamber Questions:

Smoke Chamber Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
Smoke chamber walls are sloped at an angle of greater than 45 degrees to the horizontal, with all brick supported.	
A minimum of 2 rows of brick or 190 mm (7.5 inches) thick masonry for the front, back and sides of the smoke chamber.	

The following table asks 5 Factory built Fireplaces Questions:

Factory built Fireplaces Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Rough-in to manufacturer's installation instructions.	
2. Gypsum board interior finish installed behind fireplaces and chimneys located on an exterior wall.	
3. Support of chimney elbows.	
4. Fire stop spacers installed.	
5. Clearance to combustible material from chimney above fireplace.	

The following table asks 2 Fireplace Inserts Questions:

Fireplace Inserts Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Existing fireplace has a minimum thickness of 200 mm (8 inches) solid masonry between the smoke chamber and existing combustibles.	
2. Listed metal chimney liner from insert collar to top of chimney, direct seal connection to the chimney flue or direct seal connection to the smoke chamber and clean out to any inaccessible parts of the smoke chamber.	

The following table asks 2 Steel Liners Question:

Steel Liners Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Installed to manufactures instructions.	
2. 25 mm (1 inch) thick insulation cushion.	

The following table asks 2 Combustion Air Questions:

Combustion Air Questions	Indicate Yes or NA
1. Minimum 100 mm (4 inches) diameter duct.	
2. Air supply outlet at the front of the fireplace.	

Contact:

For more information, please contact the Building Department:

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