

ALTERNATIVE HEATING

With the anticipated increase in the cost of home heating fuels this year, the use of solid fuel-burning devices will be more prevalent. The sales of freestanding wood stoves, fireplace inserts and pellet stoves will increase as homeowners look for other ways to heat their homes. The Town of Gates wants to make sure that the alternative heating device that you purchase is installed safely and properly to prevent any problems. The Town of Gates requires the following when purchasing a solid fuel-burning device:

1. Select a properly sized device for the area you intend to heat. Many buyers end up with a unit one or two sizes too big, and an oversize stove can literally drive you out of the room. It's better to use a smaller stove to capacity than to regulate a bigger stove for comfort. A good dealer can recommend a stove based on your needs and installation, rather than relying solely on what can be an unrealistic measurement for your conditions.
2. When purchasing a new or used device make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, ie: UL, Warnock Hersey, etc.
3. Select a chimney, metal or masonry. Metal chimneys also carry the mark of an independent testing laboratory. An experienced mason should construct masonry chimneys.
4. When you have decided on the device and have purchased it, contact the Fire Marshal for information on the requirements for permits and inspections. An appointment will be required to apply for the permit. There is a fee of \$100.00 for the permit.
5. Once the device has been installed an inspection of the installation will be conducted by the Fire Marshal. If the installation passes inspection a Certificate of Compliance will be mailed to you for your records.

Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the winter months and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year round.

SAFETY TIPS

- Have solid fuel burning device, chimney and chimney connectors inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as the inspections suggest.
- Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.
- Place cool ashes in a noncombustible container and place outside away from home.
- **"NEVER STORE ASHES INSIDE OF YOUR HOME OR GARAGE"**
- Test smoke alarms monthly. Replace batteries every six months. Battery operated smoke detectors should be replaced with a new unit every ten years.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in a central location outside each sleeping area.

Following the manufacturers operating instructions and safety tips solid fuel burning devices are a safe alternative means of heating.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Gates Fire Marshal at 247-6100.