

# Shopping For a Fireplace Check List

Shopping for a fireplace can be a confusing process; we want to help guide you through the process so that you are using your time wisely and finding the product that will best meet your needs. Before you visit our showroom, please take a couple of minutes to answer a few questions so that you will be better prepared to make your store visit pleasurable and productive.

## Which of the following best describes your project?

Converting an existing wood-burning fireplace to a gas insert

Adding a fireplace to a room where one does not exist today

Building a new home that will include one or more fireplaces

## Which fuel type are you most interested in using?

Gas –clean-burning, inexpensive, energy-efficient, and convenient

Wood –building and maintaining a wood-burning fire creates an event including sounds and smells.

Electric- Easy to install, clean energy but it will be more expensive to operate

## Advantages and disadvantages of each type of fuel

### Gas

#### Advantages

- Easy to use – just flip a switch
- Easy to Install –can install in almost any room
- Easy control of heat and temperature – instantly turn on and off as well as adjust the flame height
- Direct vent gas fireplaces are extremely efficient and maintain consistent indoor air quality
- Requires no electricity to operate – can supplement a home’s heat or be a back-up heat source
- Clean operation – no ashes or chimney to clean

#### Disadvantages

- Lose the smell and sound of a wood fire
- No experience of tending the fire

# Wood-Burning

## Advantages

- Enjoy all of the senses of the fire – beauty of flames & glow, the smell of the burning wood and crackling of the logs
- The overall experience of chopping wood and building & maintaining the fire
- Can be used to supplement the home's heat and reduce heating bills
- Can be used to lower energy expense where wood is readily available and inexpensive

## Disadvantages

- More time consuming to build and maintain the fire
- Need to cut, stack, and haul wood as well as clean ash and chimney
- Some people are sensitive to odors and particulates from Woodburning fireplaces
- Wood may be more expensive than gas in certain areas
- Less control of heat – gradual build-up and reduction of heat

# Electric

## Advantages

- Electric Fireplaces are the easiest and least expensive product to install
- Electric Fireplaces can be moved from room to room or be taken with you when you move
- Great for homes where wood or gas is not an option such as apartments or condo's

## Disadvantages

- Some people think the aesthetics are lacking compared to gas fireplaces
- Lower heat output
- Electric appliances are more expensive to operate per BTU of heat

## Please check any of the features that matter to you

- Heat
- Natural Aesthetics
- Energy Efficiency
- Large Viewing Area
- Lively flame design
- Soothing flame design
- Wide variety of trim options
- Thermostatic control settings

## Converting an existing wood-burning fireplace to gas

If you are converting an existing wood-burning fireplace, please gather the following information to help us select the best product for you:

The shape of the existing fireplace opening

Rectangle  Arched  Corner  See-thru

Dimensions of existing opening:

Front height left and right \_\_\_\_\_

Front height center \_\_\_\_\_

Back height \_\_\_\_\_

Front width \_\_\_\_\_

Back width \_\_\_\_\_

Depth at bottom \_\_\_\_\_

Depth at top \_\_\_\_\_

Fireplace location in the home

- Main level
- Lower level
- Bedroom

## Fireplace facing

- Smooth surface
- Rough surface
- Doors on the existing fireplace

## Adding a fireplace?

Please gather the following information to help us select the best product for you:

What are the dimensions of the room?: Length\_ (feet) Width\_\_(feet) Height\_\_(feet)

Where will the fireplace be located in the home?

- Main floor
- Lower level
- Walkout
- Knee-wall
- Below ground level (Full basement)
- Bedroom
- Outside wall
- Inside wall
- Corner

## Last but not least

Other Considerations:

Style of the room- formal, informal, modern, or traditional

Concerns about safety –children and pets

Built-in bookshelves or Entertainment centers

The fireplace as an alternative heat source

Major Remodeling Project Considerations:

If you are building a new home or working with a remodeling contractor, we can work with you and your builder/remodeler to coordinate the installation of a fireplace within the scope of the design, timing, and budget requirements of your project.

Here are the reasons why we are the best choice for you and your builder.

- Quality products – beauty, function, and reliability
- Wide selection of brands and models
- Professional installation & start-up service
- Competitive pricing
- Dedicated staff and programs geared specifically to the needs of the builder

Please provide the following information so that we can coordinate the fireplace design and installation with your contractor.

- Building/remodeling company contact information –project manager and designer
- Timing of the project