

# Gas fireplace safety



## Warm and worry-free

With a gas fireplace, you don't need to worry about going to bed with burning embers still in the firebox – when the gas supply is shut off, the fire goes out immediately. And compared to wood fireplaces, gas fireplaces vented

to the outdoors produce much less carbon monoxide and particulate emissions.

So go ahead, get comfortable by your natural gas fireplace. It's what cosy memories are made of.

As with any appliance, it pays to play it safe around your new gas fireplace:

- Do not store combustible materials, gasoline or other flammable liquids near your fireplace.
- Have your fireplace installed out of the way of foot traffic and away from furniture and draperies.
- Gas fireplaces with glass doors should not be operated if the glass is cracked or broken.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions in the owner's manual, or use the care guide for maintenance and use of your gas fireplace.
- Installation and repair of a gas fireplace should be done by a licensed gas contractor.
- Have your gas fireplace checked periodically, along with your furnace and other major gas appliances, by a licensed gas contractor.

## Keeping kids safe around your gas fireplace

### Keep watch

Children should be carefully supervised when they are in a room with a fireplace. The glass insert surrounding your natural gas fireplace can quickly heat up to temperatures higher than 200° C. Once turned off, it takes 45 minutes for the glass to cool back down.

### Don't touch

Always make sure your children know they should never touch a fireplace's glass panels. If you are concerned your toddler may be tempted to touch the fireplace's glass, consider your options in creating a physical barrier between your child and the gas fireplace. Many gas fireplace manufacturers now offer safety screens as optional accessories to certain models.

### Safety gate

If your child is not in a playpen, an adjustable gate system that fits most fireplace areas can be installed which allows adult access to the fireplace but keeps kids outside in the safety zone. Alternatively the same kind of safety gate system can be used to cordon off the entire room to prevent your child wandering into the room alone.

### Hearth safety

Parents concerned about toddlers hurting themselves on the surfaces of a fireplace hearth may want to consider installing a fire-resistant hearth guard (cushioned strip). Keep non fire-resistant materials such as pillows, sheets or rugs well away.

## Maintaining your natural gas fireplace

By purchasing a natural gas fireplace, you've made an investment that will bring you comfort and satisfaction for years to come. To help ensure that your fireplace always operates safely and at peak performance, here are some simple tips for its care and maintenance:

- familiarize yourself with the owner's manual and manufacturer's operating instructions, and keep the instructions handy
- contact your fireplace dealer if you do not understand the instructions for your fireplace
- if your fireplace is being installed in a home during construction or renovations, do not operate it until the area is thoroughly cleaned (drywall dust and other contaminants may harm the fan, motors and burners)

- have a licensed gas contractor clean and inspect your fireplace on a regular basis
- check vent periodically, as recommended in the owner's manual
- if viewing glass or seal need replacing, use only materials supplied by the fireplace manufacturer (items must be suitable for the application and temperature) and do not use your fireplace until this repair is complete
- check the manufacturer's instructions before adding or modifying a mantel or surround — a minimum clearance to combustible materials is required
- keep the external vent clear of debris

*The information provided on this sheet should be used as a guide only. All natural gas piping and appliance installations should meet manufacturer's instructions and all applicable codes, standards and regulations.*



## Get comfortable.™ Get connected to gas.

### Building or renovating?

Ask your architect or building contractor to include natural gas pre-piping in the plans.

### For more information

For further details about natural gas appliances, contact your local appliance retailer or gas contractor.

### Get connected

To get your home connected to natural gas, or to enquire about extending your natural gas piping, call Terasen Gas toll-free at:

Lower Mainland, Squamish and Interior:

1-888-224-2710

Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast and Whistler:

1-866-442-4456

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