

Chimney

" S W E E P I N G



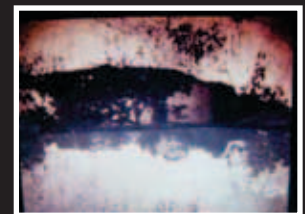
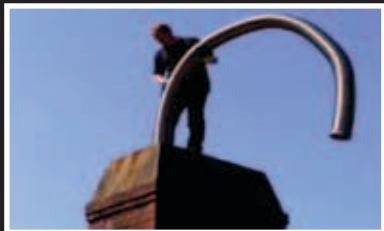
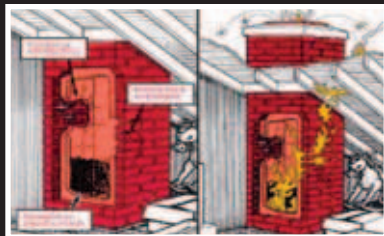
Solutions

A M E R I C A "

770-255-1300

Does my fireplace need a reline?

Many homeowners may be unaware that their chimney has major problems. Everything may look fine on the outside, but on the inside things could be falling apart. Many think that because their chimney is made of brick that there is nothing to worry about...this couldn't be further from the truth. Masonry chimneys have evolved much over the years from a simple brick structure. Most of these evolutions resulted from increased safety requirements. Masonry chimneys for the better part of 100 years now have been built with clay flue liner. The purpose of a flue lining in a masonry chimney is to stop heat transfer to the building, and prevent acidic byproducts of combustion from destroying the chimney. Clay flue lining comes in a variety of shapes and sizes and each piece makes up about 2 feet of the flue system. That means about every 2 feet there is a mortar joint where the flue sections join together. The most common damage to a clay flue liner system is cracked flue tiles and missing mortar joints. This type of damage can allow combustible creosote to build up in areas it cannot be removed from, and dangerous heat transfer to framing. It can also allow poisonous gases like carbon monoxide to escape outside of the chimney and into the living space. This is why your chimney's liner is so important. Without it, your asking for trouble.



So if your chimney has these types of problems...how do you fix them? The industry term is called relining. There are several types of systems that can be used as a method for relining a masonry chimney. At Chimney Solutions, we use U.L. listed stainless steel liner systems. This is the most practical and affordable way to reline your chimney. Stainless steel will last a lifetime provided it is serviced regularly. To do this type of reline, the old masonry flue must be removed from the chimney using highly specialized demolition tools. Installing a stainless steel liner into an existing flue will most likely cause smoke problems. At Chimney Solutions, we have the equipment, knowledge, staff and proper insurances to reline your chimney right.



Chimney

" S W E E P I N G



Solutions

A M E R I C A "

770-255-1300

Is my smoke chamber a hazard?

A smoke chamber in a masonry fireplace is one of the most vital parts of your chimney system. The smoke chamber is the key transitional area that fits between the top of the firebox and beginning of the flue system. Often overlooked, it is the most common place that a structure fire related to a masonry chimney will occur. Simply enough, this area is typically unlined and is constructed with common red brick. Common brick are very low in reflective properties, and once hot will radiate just as much heat as they receive. This makes a smoke chamber dangerous because over time heat will transfer to hidden framing, drying it out, lowering the ignition temperature. Often the mortar in this area will become deteriorated from the acids produced by all types combustion, and small holes will develop. Although your home may be older and technically grandfathered by code, N.F.P.A standards now require all masonry smoke chambers to be parged. What is parging? Parging, when referring to smoke chambers, is a process where the exposed common red brick are covered with a refractory cement. At Chimney Solutions, we use a highly specialized material developed just for smoke chambers. Chamber-Tech 2000 is a U.L. listed masonry cement that is designed to stop heat transfer. According to the manufacturer, 1-1/2" inches of this material applied to the smoke chamber walls will protect nearby framing from dangerous heat transfer. The material is applied by hand, so typically the throat style damper commonly used will have to be permanently removed and a top sealing damper installed in its place. Parging a smoke chamber can also benefit the performance of the fireplace by reducing the amount of turbulence, and increasing the amount of air flowing through the system. If you have a masonry fireplace with an unlined smoke chamber, don't take chances, discontinue use until it has been parged with an appropriate material by a qualified chimney company.

