

Summary

1. WARNING: Fireplace and chimney systems will only draft properly when they are installed according to the instructions, in an appropriate location and with the proper chimney height. Installing the fireplace according to the manufacturers instructions, choosing an appropriate location, and choosing an appropriate chimney height are the responsibility of the designer and the building contractor.

Tightly insulated and sealed homes, two story interior spaces and high vaulted ceilings can cause negative air pressures within the house which can impair drafting performance. HVAC return air ducts near the fireplace opening will adversely affect the fireplace drafting performance.

It is the responsibility of the designer, the building contractor and their mechanical contractor to determine that the building's internal air pressures are conducive to positive fireplace drafting.

Avoid placing any fireplace in an area near tall trees, tall buildings, or high land masses. These structures can reduce ambient air flow pressure as well as produce down drafts, either of which can impair fireplace drafting performance.

Earthcore Industries L.L.C. does not warrant drafting and is not responsible for it.

2. Fireplace Curing Instructions:

It is critical that the refractory elements in the Isokern firebox and smoke dome components be dry before firing of the unit. Moisture left in the Isokern components from exposure during storage and shipping, as well as moisture from the installation phase, must be eliminated before the unit is put to its intended use.

The first step in reducing the ambient moisture is to be sure that the completed fireplace rest in a dried-in setting for a minimum of 28 days after construction of the unit is complete.

The next step in curing the fireplace is to be sure that the first five or six fires are of short duration.

The first fire of the unit can take place once the minimum twenty-eight day drying period has passed. This fire should be especially short.

Start the first fire slowly with a small amount of paper and kindling (small dry wood splits or twigs) and a maximum load of four to six pounds of dry firewood, estimated to be no more than two or three logs each of about three inches (3") to four inches (4") diameter.

The first fire should burn for no more than thirty to sixty minutes and then allowed to go out. Do not refuel the fireplace during the first lighting.

A cooling off period of twenty-four hours, at a minimum, should follow the first fire.

The second fire should be the same as the first fire.

A twenty-four hour cooling off period must be observed following second lighting.

After first and second fire, continue use of the unit with three or four small fires of short duration (sixty minutes or so) and small fuel loads.

After these first five or six small fires of short duration, normal use of the fireplace can proceed. For normal use the maximum recommended fuel load is twelve to sixteen pounds of dry firewood at a time. This fuel load is considered to be approximately three to five cured hardwood logs of about three inches (3") to six inches (6") in diameter. As the fire burns down, refueling should be only one or two logs added at a time.

Important: Do not burn construction debris or trash of any kind in the fireplace.

It is not uncommon for construction debris and refuse to be burned in a fireplace by site personnel on a project that is under construction, this activity must be avoided.

It is the responsibility of the building contractor to insure that the required dry-in period is met and that the required lighting sequence is performed by the owner or by the owner's agent.

3. Log grates are required for burning solid fuel in the Isokern fireplace. Grates allow for easy air flow up through the burning logs thus creating a more complete and efficient burning of the fuel.

4. How to Build a Fire:

First set the fireplace damper in the full open position. Begin laying the fire by placing several pieces of wadded up paper directly on the log grate. Place kindling (small splits of dry pine or other dry softwood) on top of the paper, enough to loosely cover the paper. Next arrange several small, dry hardwood or softwood logs or log splits on top of the kindling layer.

Finally, arrange two or three larger hardwood logs (oak, hickory, etc.) or log splits on top of the stack. Ignite the paper at the bottom of the stack. The burning paper will ignite the kindling which will, in turn, set the remaining fuel on fire.

Be sure to stack all firewood in such a way that it will settle into the log grate as the paper and kindling layers are burned away. Additional logs can be set onto the fire as each fueling burns down.

Ideally, fuel logs should be of a hardwood species that have been air dried for one year or longer. Use of cured or uncured pine logs and uncured hardwood logs for fuel should be avoided. Pine logs and uncured hardwood logs will tend to smolder and burn at relatively low temperatures producing high levels of soot and creosote.

Important: Do not throw, toss, jam, kick or otherwise force logs into the fireplace.