

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, feel the warmth and glow of 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 refer to the care guide for maintenance and use of your gas fireplace
- installation and repair of a gas fireplace should be done by a registered gas contractor
- have your gas fireplace checked periodically, along with your furnace or other major gas appliances, by a registered 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

An adjustable gate system that fits most fireplace areas can be installed and allows adult access to the fireplace, but keeps kids outside in a safe zone. Alternatively, that same kind of safe gate system can be used to cordon off the entire room to prevent your child from 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 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 registered gas contractor clean and inspect your fireplace on a regular basis or as recommended in your owner's manual
- check your vent periodically, as recommended in the owner's manual
- if the viewing glass or seal needs 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

Visit **fortisbc.com** for more gas fireplace safety tips.

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.

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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, visit **fortisbc.com** or contact your local appliance retailer or registered gas contractor.

Get connected

To have your home connected to natural gas, call FortisBC toll-free at: **1-888-224-2710**