

Ceramic Firepot *User's Guide*

(Read these instructions before using your firepot.)

As with any type of fireplace installation, it is safe practice to regularly check the areas close to the chimney (ceiling, roof trusses etc) for discolouration or other heat damage. Check after the first couple of fires and thereafter at the beginning of every season.

CHECK BEFORE LIGHTING 1ST FIRE

- ♦ Clean the the pipe thoroughly with a solvent (eg Methelated Sprits, **NOT** Turpentine). Most important in the case of Stainless Steel. Any fingerprints left by the installers will burn into the surface unless wiped.
- ♦ Dust the pot and wipe clean with a damp cloth - do not use detergent.
- ♦ Unscrew the ceiling plate and check for adequate insulation around the pipe where it goes through.
- ♦ Make sure that the pipe has not been forced into the lidhole. Also check that no fire cement has been used here - the fibreglass rope is all that is required
- ♦ Has the fire cement been applied only on the inside of the pot at the pot/lid join? (must dry for 12 hours)
- ♦ Place **dry** sand in the bottom of the pot up to just below the mouth.
- ♦ If possible, check the water seal on the roof. Water with a hose and make sure no water is running down the outside of the chimney. Alternatively, check after or during a rain storm.

BEST WAY TO LIGHT A FIRE

Always use seasoned, dry wood or charcoal to make a fire. Coal or Anthracite is not suitable as it needs a secondary airflow for complete combustion. However, you can place a lump or two into a hot wood fire to prolong the heat output.

The most efficient way to use your Earthfire, is to build a large fire initially. After 20 - 30 min the entire pot will be radiating heat and continue to do so even after the fire has burned low. Add to the fire when necessary.

- ♦ Build against the back wall of the pot
- ♦ Place 2 pieces of wood a bit apart touching the back wall and pointing to the mouth.
- ♦ Put 3 pieces on top at a 90° angle and another 3 on top at 90°
- ♦ Put a firelighter on the sand just in front of the wood and light.

Be careful when using newspaper as a fire-starter - it could get sucked up and lodge in the chimney.

IMPORTANT: Never throw logs into the firepot. The clay is mechanically strong, but repeated impacts can cause damage to the back wall.

CARE MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY

- ♦ Your fireplace will only need cleaning every 25 to 30 fires. When the ash deposit gets too high, simply brush out the excess down to the original level.
- ♦ **IMPORTANT:** Break up the hard crust that forms on top of the sand at least once a month.
- ♦ If you get fingermarks on your Stainless Steel chimney, wipe down with a solvent (see above) and polish with a clean, dry cloth.
- ♦ Regularly dust the pot and wipe down with a damp rag if necessary. Foreign particles like dust may cause an acrid smell when hot. Never use detergent
- ♦ **Never make a fire in a wet pot or a pot with wet sand.** If water has leaked down either the inside or outside of the chimney, have it fixed immediately. Take out all the sand and let the pot dry naturally for 2 days, then replace dry sand and make a small, slow fire for the 1st hour of use. See Warranty Card.
- ♦ Should a small chip occur in the glaze, rub a little shoe polish of the closest colour match into the white clay when the fireplace is cooling after a fire. Repeat as necessary.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

- ♦ **Pipe pulls out of the lid when cooling:** If this movement is not excessive, simply pull the pipe down before making a fire. If movement exceeds 20mm it means that the pipe is too tight in the roof - it expands when hot and when it cools there is less resistance on the lid side, so the pipe pulls up. Get the installer to rectify.
- ♦ **Acrid smell:** Dust the pot and wipe thoroughly with a damp rag. (The painted flue ring may smell initially)
- ♦ **Smokes while starting a fire:** Check the sand level. Build the fire against the back wall of the pot and place the firelighter on the sand in front of the wood/charcoal.
- ♦ **Smokes all the time** There is a restriction in the chimney or cowl. The chimney must never be smaller than 125mmID anywhere along its length.
- ♦ **Smoke or ash blows back in strong wind:** The outside chimney length may be too short - swirls and eddies off the roof structure interferes with draw. Lengthen the chimney or install an extractor.

DO NOT STACK WOOD AGAINST THE OUTSIDE OF THE FIREPOT