IMPORTANT
Read carefully

Creosote Sweeping Log™

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS
FACTS AND TIPS TO KNOW FOR YOUR
WOOD BURNING - HEATING SYSTEMS
WOOD BURNING APPLIANCES
CHIMNEY AND FLUE
WOODSTOVE AND FIREPLACE

The Creosote Sweeping Log

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INSTRUCTIONS

FACTS AND TIPS

Congratulations on your purchase of The Creosote Sweeping Log (CSL).
Creosote, the dark brown or black flammable substance produced by wood fires, can be found on almost every wood-fueled heating system. This sticky, tar-like substance can ignite causing a dangerous chimney fire.
Independent test results demonstrate that using the CSL can reduce creosote deposits in wood burning stoves. When used in a fireplace, CSL can render the creosote more brittle. Subsequent mechanical sweepings are easier, cleaner and more effective.
In addition to an improved creosote reduction, CSL reduces new creosote build-up in your flue pipe, making your next fire safer.
The more creosote your chimney has, the more important it will be to clean your flue.
Remember, the CSL will not tell you if your chimney is blocked or has any kind of structural damage. Only a qualified chimney expert will be able to determine a chimney's overall condition.
The amount of creosote created in a fireplace or woodstove will vary based on the installation and condition of the appliance, the type and dryness of wood used, and frequency of use. Less efficient appliances and less seasoned or greener woods will produce more creosote and may require more frequent cleaning.
Lower temperature fires, used during moderately cold weather, will result in a more rapid build-up of creosote than hotter fires used in the coldest temperatures.

Before using the CSL

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Prior to using the CSL, always perform a visual inspection of your Chimney and flue to ensure that it is free of debris, bird's nests, or other obstructions.

Do not use the CSL as your first fire of the season. Always burn normal fires for two or three days prior to CSL application.

Ensure that the fireplace damper is fully open.

If you have a catalytic combustor, close it with the bypass and put it in the inactive position. Leave the catalytic combustor in bypass mode for 1 to 2 weeks, the duration of the treatment period. See page 12 for more information regarding catalytic combustors.

The CSL is non corrosive and will not damage flue pipes. It is safe to use with all masonry chimneys and flue pipes.

The CSL may be used with woodstoves, wood burning furnaces, fireplace inserts, wood burning fireplaces with a gas starter, wood/coal stoves, boilers, and dual fuel wood burning boilers or furnaces.

Do not use the CSL with artificial gas logs or electrical fireplaces, BBQs or with oil-only burning furnaces.

Getting started

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To ensure proper combustion of the CSL, pull the seams of the wrapper outward, to create airflow between the CSL log and the wrapper and facilitate burning.

For best results burn a regular fire before using CSL. . This will help prevent downdrafts (smoke coming back down the Chimney when the smoking action of the CSL process continues after the flames have died out). See page 10 for more information on downdrafts.
Once the flames have completely gone out, place the log directly on the hot embers. Do not use the CSL on an active fire with open flames.

When using 2 CSL, do not put them onto hot embers. Placing two CSL logs on hot embers may cause the fire to burn too intensely.

Make sure all fans through out your home (heating, ceiling, etc.) are shut off when using the CSL.

When lighting the CSL log always use a match or lighter, do not use flammable liquids or other means to ignite the log.

Close any glass doors and lower air-intakes on your wood burning appliance.
Close any fire protection screens.

Using the CSL with a woodstove or fireplace insert

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Woodstoves are well known to produce heavy creosote build-up inside the flue pipes. The amount of build up will vary based on appliance type, fuel used, and frequency of use.

Burning only one CSL in a wood stove or fireplace insert will reduce overall creosote weight, thickness & flammability**. For best results, follow the chart below** for recommended treatment frequency according to your woodstove or fireplace insert usage.

Weekend use	**Use 1 CSL per season**
	Use CSL at start or middle of the season.
1 fire per day	**Use 2 CSL per season**
	Use CSL at start and middle of season.
Continuous fire	**1 CSL every 2 months**
	Use CSL regularly to avoid high creosote build up

Creosote build-up will depend on appliance type, fuel used, frequency of use and other factors.

Regular Chimney inspections are always recommended. The CSL will not tell you if your chimney is blocked or has any kind of structural damage. The CSL does not take the place of inspection and professional cleaning.

Using the CSL with a fireplace 5

Due to increased air flow draft, fireplace chimneys produce less creosote than wood stoves, but can be more difficult to clean. Over time, these hard to remove deposits can build up in your fireplace chimney and present a serious hazard. Use CSL in the fireplace to render creosote more brittle for easier mechanical cleaning.

Small fireplace / small flue *Use CSL as a precaution every 60 fires.*	**Use 1 CSL**
Large fireplace / large flue *To render creosote brittle, and aid mechanical cleaning in case of heavy creosote build-up.*	**Use 2 CSL at the same time**

A small fireplace has a horizontal opening that is less than three feet.
A large fireplace has a horizontal opening that is wider than three feet.

For best results with a large fireplace, set 2 CSL logs directly onto your firebox with 1 foot between each CSL. DO NOT place the two CSL logs on hot embers. Placing two CSL logs on hot embers may cause the fire to burn too intensely. If using CSL on an enclosed fireplace with doors, shut doors completely while the CSL log burns.

How it works

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Each time you burn a wood fire creosote is formed. Different types of wood have different characteristics and effect creosote build up differently because:

- Certain types of fuel wood release more heat than others.
- Hardwoods, such as oak, are denser than softwoods such as pine.
- Hardwoods will burn longer.
- Unseasoned "green" wood will burn with difficulty and produce more creosote due to its high water content.

The CSL contains a mixture of special additives that are dispersed during the process of burning and adhere to the creosote build-up inside your chimney. A chemical reaction will take place for one week. During this time, the creosote may become brittle.

As you continue to use your appliance, the heat from the fires will treat the creosote and may cause the creosote to disperse as a fine powder, or break away from the chimney wall and fall back into the firebox in the form of small particles.

Any remaining creosote is less likely to result in a chimney fire and also is more brittle, allowing for easier and more effective mechanical removal.

After you have used the CSL 7

The CSL will continue to smoke even after the flames have gone out. This is a normal part of the process. Make sure your damper is left fully open, until the smoking has completely stopped.

Falling creosote can come down over a period of days and is often difficult to distinguish from regular fire ashes.

If possible, allow a few hours between using the CSL and starting another fire.

After you have used the CSL, it is beneficial to have subsequent wood fires. This will allow the additives released by the CSL to further treat the creosote.

If your wood burning appliance is used constantly, much of the flaking creosote will be dispersed from the heat and draft of continuous fires.

Wait for 1 week after using the CSL before doing a mechanical sweep, as the creosote will be easier to remove after the treatment is complete.

Do not eat or allow pets to eat any CSL residues.

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Visit us at
www.creosotesweepinglog.com

Caution - Safety

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Do not use the CSL in gas or propane stoves, BBQs, or oil only burning furnaces.
Do not use for cooking.
Poking or breaking up of the CSL while it is burning may cause it to burn too intensely. Flaming particles may stick to fireplace tools.
Do not add wood or other material to the fire after you have placed the CSL into the firebox.
Do not attempt to remove a burning or smoldering log from the fireplace.
In a woodstove or fireplace insert, burn only one CSL at a time.
Leave any remaining residue from the CSL in the firebox. Additives will continue to be released, and any remaining unburned residue will be reduced to ashes as you burn your next fire.
Do not close the fireplace damper until the ashes are cool and there is no further smoking activity.
Inspect both the top of the damper and smoke shelf (if equipped) from time to time to ensure they are cleared of fallen creosote particles after use of the CSL. This is particularly important if your creosote build up was significant before using the CSL. Remove the debris with a curved brush or a wet/dry-vac type vacuum cleaner.
If your woodstove has an angled or horizontal flue, inspect and clean any debris which may collect in it.
Installing a regular chimney cap can often solve downdrafts caused by winds. Check at www.cleanyourchimney.com for more details
Open a window if there is little air in the room with the fireplace.
In an emergency you can extinguish the CSL. Use a UL listed chemical fire extinguisher or carefully douse it with water.
Never leave any fire unattended.
Never allow children to play near a fireplace, hot woodstove or any wood burning appliance.
Failure to follow these instructions and warnings may result in an improper burn or risk of injury or fire.

Smoke and odors (possible solution)

Facts and Tips

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Downdrafts can occur when there is insufficient air flow up a chimney or flue. Downdrafts can make your fires weak and hard to sustain, while causing smoke and odor to backspill into your home.

Downdraft can be caused by :

- A flue that is either too small or too large for the appliance.
- Too much creosote (soot) build-up in the flue.
- Insufficient air circulation to feed a fire.
- Open vents in the house which may allow excessive amount of air to escape creating low air pressure in the house.
- Wind.

To help avoid downdraft:

- Always check your chimney or flue for obstacles (bird nests, branches, leaves).
- Always use seasoned wood.
- Install a regular chimney cap to solve downdrafts caused by winds.
- Open a window to increase air flow.
- Make sure all fans (heating, ceiling...) are shut off when operating the fireplace even if the fan is in another room such as a bathroom or kitchen.

Go to our website (www.cleanyourchimney.com) for a more detailed review about downdrafts.

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Visit us at
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Creosote Wood types

Facts and Tips **10**

CREOSOTE FACTS:

Creosote is a tar like substance that is flammable. It's a mixture of soot and water and a byproduct of combustion (fire), which can build up within the flue pipe and chimney. It can ignite and cause dangerous chimney fires. Creosote can be found in all wood burning systems.

At low temperatures, creosote will condense on stove pipes, chimney or flues. This substance is flammable.

Woodstoves produce more creosote than fireplaces.

The amount of creosote can vary according to the density of the smoke. More smoke means more creosote build-up.

WOOD FACTS:

Certain types of fuel wood release more heat than others.

- Hardwoods, such as oak, are denser than softwoods such as pine.
- Hardwoods will burn longer.
- Unseasoned "green" wood will burn with difficulty and produce more creosote due to its high water content.

TIP:

Always try to burn dry, seasoned wood in your wood burning appliance.
Examples of hard woods include: Hornbeam, Oak, Beech, Birch.
Examples of soft woods include: Larch, Pine, Poplar, Fir.

Converter and Smoke shelf

Facts and Tips **11**

FACTS ABOUT CATALYTIC COMBUSTORS (CATALYTIC CONVERTERS):

Much of the heat from burning wood escapes up the chimney.

A catalytic combustor is designed to reduce particle emission that naturally results from burning any wood.

Most catalytic combustors are made of a durable temperature-resistant ceramic composition which is extruded into a honeycomb configuration. The ceramic is fired and covered with a high-quality metal catalyst.

When wood smoke contacts this catalyst, chemical changes occur that cause the smoke to ignite at temperatures around 500° F. Normally smoke would ignite and burn only at temperatures around 1000° F.

Over time, the catalytic effect decreases, which may cause creosote accumulation.

Before using the CSL in appliances with catalytic combustors, make sure that you can access the combustor for cleaning or removal.

The combustor should be inspected on a regular basis, especially after burning CSL. Flakes of treated creosote may dry and fall onto the combustor.

A soft brush, low pressurized air, or a plain water and vinegar solution can be used to clean the combustor.

The ceramic unit is fragile, handle it with care.

SMOKE SHELF:

The cavity behind the damper is the smoke shelf.

Some of the fallen debris, produced by repeated fires, may end up collecting on the smoke shelf.

Depending on how often the smoke shelf is cleaned, there can be build-up.

The shelf should be cleaned periodically with a curved brush, or a wet/dry-vac vacuum cleaner. It is advisable not to use your standard household vacuum as it may be damaged by the soot particles.

Consult a professional if you are unsure about the location or condition of the smoke shelf.