

REMODEL TIPS

Follow these fireplace tips to avoid extra cost, time, and hassle during and after your remodel!



INSPECT THE FIREPLACE

An inspection early in the process can help determine whether:

- The fireplace is fit for continued use or should be replaced
- Spare parts are still available
- The new finishing meets the clearances and requirements of the fireplace
- Other changes you are making to your home could impact your fireplace

Replacing a built-in fireplace requires construction on the wall. Finishings must be removed and drywall opened for access to the chase. If your fireplace is nearing its end of life, the easiest time to replace it is when you are already planning a remodel. We have been to numerous homes where custom finishings have been installed around 20+ year old fireplaces that are considered obsolete by their manufacturers. The fireplaces are not working properly and repair parts are no longer available. Now their finishing will have to be redone again. Don't let this happen to you or your clients! Have the fireplace inspected during the planning process.

MOVING A FIREPLACE

Moving an old, existing fireplace to a new location is generally not advisable. While in theory some vent brands can be disassembled and reassembled, some brands cannot, and a lot can go wrong. The planning, hassle and cost of moving a fireplace might be as much as a new appliance. Before moving a fireplace, you should consider whether:

- The fireplace is fit for continued use and parts are still available
- The new location and vent run meets the clearances and requirements of the fireplace
- Venting parts are still available and if the venting should be replaced entirely

CONSIDER AIR FLOW

Changing any of the below features of your home could impact how your existing fireplace drafts if you have a wood-burning fireplace, a wood-burning box with gas logs, or a B-vent gas fireplace.

- Windows, doors, roofs
- Kitchen draft hoods, bathroom vents, dryer vents
- Other combustion appliances
- Any changes that could create negative pressure inside the home

Ensure you plan properly in case make-up air is needed. You won't get that cozy, warm ambiance you desire if your fireplace only works with the window open!

AT A GLANCE

- Always have the fireplace inspected by a Hearth Professional before you remodel around it
- Replace fireplaces that are nearing end of life, around 20 years old
- Just because a fireplace turns on, doesn't mean it's safe to use
- It's better to replace an old fireplace than move it to a new location
- Extra planning is needed when remodeling a house with an open-hearth fireplace due to air flow requirements



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