

MAINTENANCE

Stove Cleaning

We use ceramic glass in our stoves because it has great impact and thermal shock resistance. Glass installed in the stove fronts have full gaskets around the perimeter so there is no contact between the glass and the cast iron frame.

There are two panes of glass in each fireplace front, with an air-space between the two panes. This thermal-pane arrangement helps keep the temperature on the inside of the glass higher, and prevents condensation and soot from accumulating. The Fireview has a large glass area with an “air-wash” design, in which the primary air supply washes over the front glass to assist in keeping the glass free of ash and soot.

The glass may soot up the first time you use the stove (from condensation already inside the stove). Don't be alarmed! As soon as you build up adequate temperatures with a hot fire, the glass will clean itself, the residue will burn off and it will stay clean. Soot accumulation on the inside of the glass is more likely in the spring and fall, when temperatures are very mild and you are less likely to maintain a hot fire.

To wipe fly ash off the inside of the glass, we recommend that you use a brush with soft bristles (like a paintbrush). You can clean heavy soot from the glass with very fine steel wool (.0000 grade), but 1) be sure that the fire is out; and 2) be sure that the glass has cooled to room temperature before you clean it. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN HOT GLASS.**

Glass Cleaning

We use ceramic glass in our stoves because it is resistant to both impact and thermal shock. The panes of ceramic glass installed in the stove fronts have full gaskets around the perimeter so there is no contact between the glass and the cast iron frame.

There are two panes of glass in each fireplace front, with an air-space between the two panes. This “thermal-pane” arrangement helps keep the temperature on the inside of the glass higher and prevents condensation and soot from accumulating. The Fireview has an “air-wash” design in which the primary air supply washes over the front glass to assist in keeping the glass free of ash and soot.

The glass may soot up the first time you use the stove (from condensation already inside the stove). Don't be alarmed! Usually, as soon as you build up adequate temperature with a hot fire, the glass will clean itself. The residue will burn off, and it will stay clean. Soot accumulation on the inside of the glass is more likely in the spring and fall, when temperatures are very mild and you are less likely to maintain a hot fire.

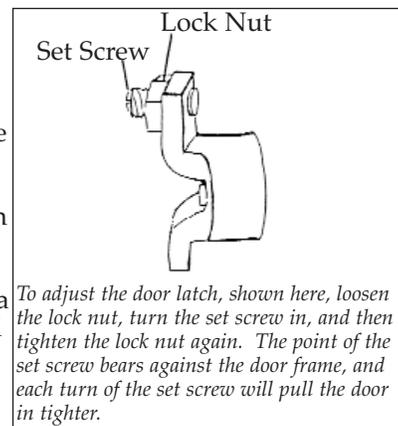
To clean the inside of the glass or wipe off fly ash, we recommend that you use a brush with soft bristles (like a paintbrush). You may clean heavy soot from the glass with very fine steel wool (.0000 grade), but first, be sure the fire is out; and second, be sure that the glass has cooled to room temperature before you clean it.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN HOT GLASS.

Door Latch Adjustment

All Woodstock Soapstone Stoves have similar latches that can be easily adjusted as required. If the gasketing on the side door becomes compressed, the latch has a set screw that can be adjusted to take up the slack, maintaining the airtight seal around the door. One good way to test whether the door seal is tight enough is the “dollar bill” test. Hold a dollar bill, or slip of paper, in the door opening above the knob, close the door on it, and tighten the latch. If you can pull the dollar bill back out easily, the latch is too loose and needs to be adjusted..

To adjust the latch, loosen the lock nut on the back of the latch. Tighten the set screw a turn or two, until the door closes tightly. Then tighten the lock nut so the set screw will not move.



Gasket Replacement

There are five areas on your stove where you should check the gasket routinely: (1) on the side door, (2) under the catalytic bypass damper, (3) under the catalytic combustor, (4) around the air duct cover perimeter, (5) and the top lid. These five gaskets are the most important for maintaining high efficiency and clean burning. To check the gasket in areas

that have a part that opens, and closes, close a slip of paper in these gasketed areas. There should be resistance as you pull the paper out. If there is any evidence of deterioration and/or leaking in any of these areas or if any of the gasket material in the stove becomes worn or frayed, it should be replaced. Please contact Woodstock Soapstone Company for replacement gasket and replacement instructions.

The sizes of all the gaskets on your Fireview woodstove are included in the parts list in the Parts List Section.

Routine Checks And End of Season Maintenance

Every few months of operation we recommend checking the chimney connector (stovepipe) and combustor (see combustor section) and cleaning if necessary. If any of the gasket material in the stove becomes worn or frayed, it should be replaced. Also inspect the cast iron parts to make sure that over-firing hasn't occurred.

When the weather warms up and the burning season is over, it is a good idea to do a thorough spring cleaning and inspection of your stove and combustor. We recommend a yearly service visit from a certified chimney sweep who will look at the whole system, from top to bottom. Chimney safety is important for you and your family so you can fully enjoy your stove without worrying. The best way to gain confidence in the safety of your Fireview is to have it serviced and inspected once a year by a professional chimney sweep.

If you live in a climate with warm, humid summer weather, your stove may experience moisture build-up in the off season. After cleaning the chimney and stove pipe block the flue pipe with fiberglass insulation which will wick up the excess moisture and prevent discoloration of the stone.

Creosote - Formation and Need for Removal

WHEN WOOD IS BURNED SLOWLY, IT PRODUCES TAR AND OTHER ORGANIC VAPORS, WHICH COMBINE WITH EXPELLED MOISTURE TO FORM CREOSOTE. THE CREOSOTE VAPORS CONDENSE IN THE RELATIVELY COOL CHIMNEY FLUE OF A SLOW-BURNING FIRE. AS A RESULT, CREOSOTE RESIDUE ACCUMULATES ON THE FLUE LINING. WHEN IGNITED THIS CREOSOTE MAKES AN EXTREMELY HOT FIRE. THE CHIMNEY CONNECTOR AND THE CHIMNEY SHOULD BE INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS DURING THE HEATING SEASON TO DETERMINE IF A CREOSOTE BUILDUP HAS OCCURED. IF CREOSOTE HAS ACCUMULATED IT SHOULD BE REMOVED TO REDUCE THE RISK OF A CHIMNEY FIRE.

The most likely conditions for creosote to occur are: (1) when a large number of small pieces of wood are added to a hot bed of coals and the damper is then completely closed; (2) extremely long, smoldering fires, and; (3) burning wet or green wood.

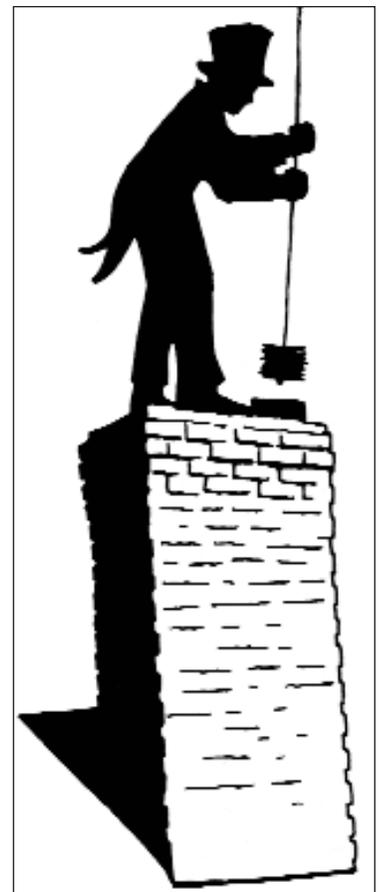
Lack of combustion air and smoldering fires usually result in dense smoke and low stack temperatures in the chimney connector and the chimney. Wet or green wood can also produce dense smoke and excessive water vapor, which can quickly lead to creosote buildup.

Creosote will accumulate faster in exterior chimneys than interior chimneys because of colder outside temperatures.

There are three stages of creosote build-up. The first is a flaky, crystal-like accumulation which can be removed with a brush. The second is a tar-like coating. The third is a hard, glossy enamel-like coating that is difficult to penetrate. If your chimney is heavily coated with tar or enamel-like creosote, we recommend that you consult with an experienced chimney sweep about removal and prevention.

PREVENTION: Without question, the best way to treat creosote is to prevent its accumulation. In order to reduce the danger of accumulation, we recommend the following:

1. Burn only dry cordwood. Dry wood burns hotter and expels less moisture to condense.
2. Use the catalytic combustor properly. It can reduce possible creosote accumulation



Professional chimney sweeps are trained to inspect and clean chimneys.

by as much as 90% and improve stove efficiency at the same time. Be sure to read the section on catalytic combustors.

3. Never operate your stove for extended periods of time with the draft control completely closed. Both the wood fire and the catalytic combustor need oxygen to burn efficiently.
4. Try to re-establish a hot fire, and re-ignite the combustor after every reloading by opening the primary air control for about 10 minutes.
5. Check the catalytic combustor output. Use the thermometer provided with the stove to be sure that the catalytic combustor is igniting properly when you kindle a fire or reload the stove. The temperatures on the stove top should rise noticeably, and pipe temperatures should drop, when the catalytic combustor becomes engaged.
6. Avoid long, smoldering fires. Again, the catalytic combustor is critical here. Hot firebox temperatures (with the stove top thermometer in the 400-600° range) will produce more complete combustion and maintain proper catalytic activity.