

Backyard fireplaces



Many people enjoy gathering around a backyard fireplace with friends and family. Who does not love roasting marshmallows over a fire? But the last thing anyone wants is to have that fire escape from their fireplace, endangering the lives or property of family, friends, neighbours or the community.

Here are some best practices to follow when installing/ maintaining a fireplace in your backyard:

- Check with your local fire department for any regulations before installing a fireplace in your backyard. Most cities and towns have regulations for backyard fireplaces.
- A fireplace should be composed of non-flammable materials, with a surface area no greater than 1m² and no less than 15cm in height.
- Cover the fireplace with wire mesh (6mm openings), to help prevent sparks from escaping.
- Consider buying a safety standard approved commercial fireplace rather than building one.
- The area under the fireplace should be bared to mineral soil or composed of non-flammable material such as brick or concrete.
- The fireplace should be at least 3m from all fine fuels such as pine needles, dead leaves and twigs.
- Grass or weeds growing within 3m of the fireplace should be no more than 10cm in height.
- The fireplace should be at least 2.5m away from trees.
- Remove overhanging tree limbs to a minimum of 2.5m above the fireplace.
- Fireplaces should be at least 3m from the home, wooden fences, wooden decks and any outbuildings.



A good alternative to a wood burning fireplace is a gas burning fireplace. Here are some advantages to using a gas burning fireplace:

- The flame can be easily controlled or extinguished by using the fuel control valve.
- There is no smoke emitted.
- There are no sparks emitted.
- There is no risk of hot coals left unextinguished.
- There are no ashes to clean from the fireplace.

These best practices do not guarantee that a fire will not escape your fireplace, but they will certainly reduce the risk.

**Always check local
burning conditions
before lighting a fire!**

1-866-458-8080

www.gnb.ca/firewatch

**Stay alert and
never leave your
fire unattended!**

