

Prevention Capsule



Hot Ashes: Preventing Fire Risks

Hot ashes may seem harmless, but they can be quite dangerous. Whether you're using a fireplace, a wood stove, or a barbecue, it is important to understand and follow proper ash-handling practices. Hot ashes are a leading cause of fires, and a single spark is all it takes to start a blaze. That's why it's crucial to take appropriate precautions to prevent fires caused by hot ashes.

Here are some recommendations for safe ash disposal:



- Please place the container outside on a surface that is not flammable.
- Make sure to keep the metal container at least one meter away from any walls of the house, garage, shed or other combustible materials such as hedges or canvas shelters.
- It is recommended to let the ashes rest in this container for 3 to 7 days before disposing of them in another container, such as organic waste or trash. Check your municipality's guidelines.

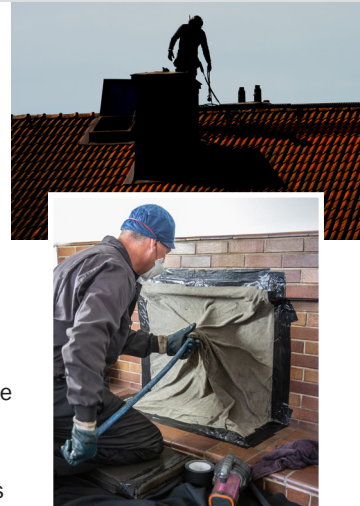
- Make sure that the ashes are completely cooled down before you transfer them into another container. To ensure that there is no heat being emitted, stir the ashes regularly. As a precautionary measure, it's recommended to keep the ashes throughout the winter season and dispose of them only in the spring.
- It is important to never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up hot ashes.

Hot ashes should be stored outside to prevent carbon monoxide emissions into homes and garages.



To avoid the risk of fires, it is important to clean your chimney:

- **Regular Use of Your Fireplace:** It is important to have your chimney swept by a professional approximately every 5 cords of burned wood.
- **Occasional Use of Your Fireplace:** An annual chimney sweep is recommended in spring to prevent the buildup of creosote associated with hot and humid summer conditions.
- **Fireplace Flue Cleaning:** Avoid using logs and powder additives as they only remove 60% of the creosote compared to the 75 to 90% removed by professional chimney sweeps. It is recommended to keep ashes during winter and dispose of them in spring as a precaution.



Please be advised that attempting to start a fire in the fireplace to eliminate creosote is highly discouraged due to the potential risk of a fire throughout the entire house.

That's why it's imperative to handle hot ashes with the utmost care. By taking these simple steps, you can help reduce the risk of fire and ensure the safety of your home.

Finding a licensed contractor who has the right skill set to manage the repairs or inspection on your home is recommended.

