Gas Fireplaces

Homeowners may acquire a Gas Fireplace Installer’s permit to install a gas fireplace, frame it, and install the vent kit. You will require a licensed gasfitter to obtain a permit, install the gas line and connect the appliance. All components must be left exposed for inspection before any portion is covered and concealed.

Follow these steps for successful installation:

- Check the Rating Plate to ensure the appliance is approved by a testing agency acceptable in Canada.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for clearances to combustible construction, such as side walls, when positioning the appliance.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for all framing clearances and requirements. Pay strict attention to positioning of framing components.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for the vent clearances and accepted configurations.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for all exterior vent clearances from, building openings, gas meters, other appliance vents, dryer vents, and fresh air intake vents.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for enclosure clearances after the inspection has been completed and the installation tagged “acceptable”.
- Check the manufacturer’s manual for clearances required if a mantel is to be installed.
- Ensure that a working carbon monoxide detector is installed on the appliance floor level.

Gas fired appliances placed in existing wood burning fireplaces should be installed by professionals, as these installations are complex. Damage to the firebox may void the installation opportunity and destroy the existing appliance. All manufacturer’s instructions must be used in conjunction with gas codes to ensure a safe installation.

Wood Burning Stoves

- All stoves and space heaters require an approved certification label which specifies that the unit conforms to the current CSA-B366.1-M, “Solid Fuel-Fired Central Heating Appliances”; or ULC-S627-M, “Standard for Space Heaters for Use with Solid Fuels”.
- The installation of solid fuel burning stoves, range and space heaters, including the requirements for combustion air, must conform to the current CAN3-B365, “Installation Code for Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances and Equipment”.
- A used or unlabelled stove can only be installed in a detached garage serving a single dwelling unit. These stoves must be installed in accordance with the current CAN3-B365, “Installation Code for Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances and Equipment”.
- Stoves installed in mobile homes or in an addition to a mobile home must be specifically tested for this purpose.

Please Note: This application is not a complete list of requirements. For more details on the specific rules applicable to your property, please call the Planning Services Centre at 403-268-5311. It is your responsibility to ensure that the work being carried out does not contravene the requirements of restrictive covenants, caveats or any other restrictions that are registered against the property.

An electronic copy of the bylaw can be found on The City’s website at lub.calgary.ca

For detailed and complete building codes and fire regulations, please refer to the Alberta Building Code and the Alberta Fire Code website at municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca or contact the Province of Alberta’s Municipal Affairs and Housing Safety Services branch at 1-866-421-6929.

Before you dig, reduce the risk of personal injury and property damage by contacting Alberta One-Call at 1-800-242-3447 to request to have the location of your utilities marked.

Please Note: These brochures have no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various bylaws, codes and regulations currently in effect. The City of Calgary accepts no responsibility to persons relying solely on this information.

Brochures are updated periodically. Contact the Planning Services Centre to determine if you have the most recent edition.
I plan to install a fireplace in my home. Do I need a Building Permit?

- A Building Permit is required for all factory-built wood burning fireplaces, stoves and inserts.
- A Building Permit is not required to install a gas fireplace; however, a Gas Permit and a Gas Fireplace Installers Permit are required.

For information on masonry fireplaces please call the Planning Services Centre at 403-268-5311 to speak to a Safety Codes Office.

Please Note: For all types of fireplaces, additional permits may be required: Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, HVAC.

If your installation requires a new chimney that will project from the side of the house, you will need to apply for an "Addition to a Single Detached, Semi-detached or Duplex Dwelling" Building Permit and possible Development Permit. To find out how close you can build to your side property line, please call 403-268-5311 for more information.

What do I need to bring?

Your application must include:

- Two copies of the Site Plan of the property showing the size and location of the fireplace/stove chimneys in relation to the property lines. If a new chimney chase will be part of your project, you will also require two sets of Building Plans.
- The make and model number, as well as, the structure, including cantilevers and window wells.
- All abutting streets, avenues, lanes and adjoining properties.
- Easements and utility right-of-ways.

You may prepare your own site plan, drawn to a scale of not less than 1” = 20’ or 1:200 in metric, although a recent survey certificate is preferred. Your drawings must be fully dimensioned and will be accepted in metric or imperial, but not a combination of both. The following information must be clearly labelled on your drawings:

- North arrow
- The street address
- The site's legal description

The following sample Site Plan is Not scaled appropriately for an actual building permit application, but is provided for your reference to be used as a guide.

When will I get my permit?

Applications for fireplaces are typically processed in one week, provided our application is complete and complies with The City's Land Use Bylaw and the Alberta Building Code.

What are the rules and safety standards for fireplaces?

Wood Burning Fireplace

- To ensure a minimum fire safety standard, all factory-built fireplaces are required to have an ULC, WHI or other approved certification label which specifies that the entire assembly, including the firebox, chimney parts, and glass doors have been tested as a package in accordance with the current "CAN/ULC-S610-M, Standard For Factory-Built Fireplaces".

- Factory-built fireplace assemblies must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

- Factory-built fireplaces must be used as per the manufacturer’s instructions.

- The City cannot issue building permits for used factory built fireplaces or fireplaces that which have not been tested.

- Combustion air is required for all fuel-fired appliances (including fireplaces).

- Factory-built fireplaces that have decorative gas logs must have Canadian Gas Association (CGA) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification.

Fireplace Diagram