

SANTA (AND FAMILY) SAFE FIREPLACE

Never burn these items in a fireplace

Painted wood - Paint contains heavy metals, such as lead, chromium and titanium, which are used to make the different colors. These metals, especially lead, can be toxic even in small quantities if inhaled.



Pressure-treated wood - Wood is commonly made resistant to fungus and insects through the addition of copper, chromate and arsenic, in a process known as CCA treatment. CCA treatment places roughly 27 grams of arsenic in every 12-foot 2x6, which is sufficient to kill about 250 adults.

Plywood, particleboard, chipboard or OSB - These manmade woods release formaldehyde, and potentially hydrochloric acid or dioxin, when burned.

Rotted, diseased or moldy wood - This wood will not burn as long as normal wood, may produce bad smells when burned, and could bring insects into the house.

Damp wood - Wood that has a moisture content higher than 20% will burn inefficiently and will contribute to a greater accumulation of creosote in the chimney, as well as air pollution.

Allergenic plants - Urushiol, the chemical that induces the typically minor allergic reaction when skin is exposed to poison ivy, poison sumac or poison oak, is far more dangerous when inhaled. Urushiol is not destroyed by fire and can quickly cause life-threatening respiratory distress if any of these plants are burned.

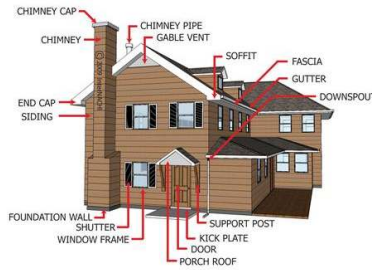
Dryer lint - While it's often used effectively as a fire-starter, lint can contain a wide array of dangerous chemicals that come from your clothes and fabric softener.

Trash - Never burn household garbage, as it contains a range of potentially hazardous materials and chemicals that react in unpredictable ways when burned together. Newspaper ink, plastics, aluminum foil, plastic bags, and whatever else constitutes your particular trash can create a deadly chemical cocktail.

NEW Building Materials

The National Association of Home Builders reports that the typical 2,000 SF new house requires the following materials:

Framing lumber	3,127 board-feet
Sheathing	6,212 sq. ft.
Concrete	13.97 tons
Ext. siding material	2,325 sq. ft.
Roofing material	3,100 sq. ft.
Insulation	3,061 sq. ft.
Interior wall material	6,144 sq. ft.
Ducting	20 linear ft.
Windows	15
Cabinets	15 kitchen & 2 others
Kitchen sink	1
Interior doors	12
Closet doors	7
Exterior doors	2
Patio door	1
Garage door	2
Fireplace	1
Toilets	3
Bathtubs	2
Shower stall	1
Bathroom sinks	3
Flooring material	2,085 sq. ft.
Appliances	1 range, 1 dishwasher, 1 garbage disposal, 1 range hood, 1 washer, 1 dryer



Reopen Envelope

If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.

Keep it Flowing

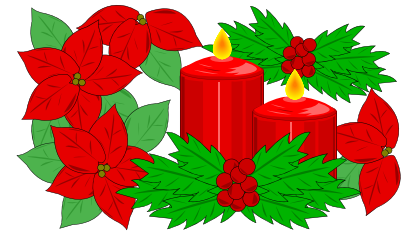
Keep drains clean by pouring in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup baking soda, followed by $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar. In about 10 minutes, run hot water down the drain. Keep drains odor-free by pouring $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vinegar down them once a week.

Stuffy Nose?

Before using a high priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints.

With all of these parts, in an old or new house, it certainly makes sense to get a professional home inspector involved in the real estate transaction!

HOME INSPECTION NIGHTMARES



OK, MacGyver, you don't have anything on this homeowner who fixed his toilet valve with a binder clip, some twine & a spork!

Courtesy of the ASHIREporter

*Wishing you a
Wonderful
Holiday Season
from all of us at
Camelot Home
Inspections.*

*Erick, Laurie,
Pete, and Jim*