

# Swede Chimney Sweep & Dryer Vent Cleaning

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## Tips for Using Your Fireplace

Here are some guidelines on how to minimize safety issues and smoking problems, and have an enjoyable fireplace experience.

- **Open your damper.** If necessary, shine a flashlight up inside your fireplace to make sure the damper is fully open.
- **Clear the area around the fireplace opening.** Remove any combustible material including your firewood away from the front of the fireplace.
- **Place your fire grate as far back in the fireplace as possible.** This reduces the possibility of a smoking problem and the heated backwall reflects more heat into the room.

### Ingredients for your fire...

- **Tinder.** If you have a log lighter, definitely use it. If not, use fire starters, fatwood, crumpled newspaper and small twigs.
- **Kindling.** Large twigs, small branches and small splits of wood that are roughly ¼" to 1" in thickness.
- **Fuel.** Use well seasoned hard and/or softwood that is split, dry and stacked away from the house for up to a year.

### Starting the Fire

- **Warm up the flue.** Light one end of a rolled up newspaper and hold it in the damper area for about 10-15 seconds to help establish a good draft in the chimney.
- **Arrange 2 small pieces of firewood on the fire grate with some tinder between the logs.**
- **Cover the tinder with a generous amount of kindling wood.**
- **Place 1 to 2 more small pieces of firewood on top of the kindling, and two more at right angles with an air space in between for air circulation.**
- **Light the tinder and enjoy your fire!**