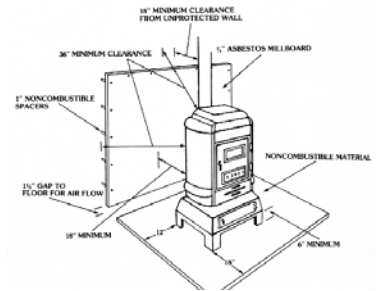


PLEASE BE FIRE SAFE

when heating at home with wood stoves

MOST DINÉ HOMES HAVE OLDER STOVES. **PLEASE USE YOUR STOVE SAFELY!**

- **FLAMMABLE MATERIALS** must not be in the area of the stove and stovepipe. Make sure the area is clear.
- **MINIMUM CLEARANCES** are 36 inches around the hot stove, and 18 inches around a bare stovepipe including from the wall, ceiling and even window glass. All of these are flammable.
- **FLOOR PROTECTION**—A heat shield over your floor is necessary. **DO NOT USE** tin-over-plywood, asbestos, or steel-plate stove boards placed on top of wood floors—these are fire hazards, and so are hearths of loose brick. Make sure you have a hearth of mortared brick, flagstone, or other proper material that extends 8 inches beyond the back of the stove, 8 inches to each side, and 16 inches in front of the door.
- **WALL HEAT SHIELDS**—**DO NOT USE** bare wood or sheetrock around a wood stove, these are fire hazards. A fire-resistant wall shield will help radiate heat from the stove away from the wall. Proper materials include 24-gauge stainless steel, tile at least 3-1/2" thick, and mortared brick or brick veneer. To be a proper heat shield, the wall shield must have a one-inch wall spacer behind them to prevent heat from transferring to the wall. Only proper wall heat shields may reduce minimum wall clearances.
- **STOVEPIPE SAFETY** is critical. Very many fire calls are for stovepipe issues. A mistake most common to older stoves is lack of clearance. Keep bare stovepipe least 18 inches from flammable walls and ceilings. The pipe should be as straight and short as possible, with sections properly secured. Any horizontal portion should be very limited. If you haven't replaced the stove pipe and dampers, take it down, disassemble, and clean it. If you must pass the stovepipe through a wall or ceiling, use a ventilated 24-gauge metal thimble 12 inches larger than the pipe. Use corrosion-resistant steel of proper gauge for pipe size. **BE EXTRA CAREFUL!**
- **REGULAR CARE.** Wood stoves made since 1990 are airtight and comply with smoke and air quality standards but many families have older stoves. Give your stove a good inspection. Look for cracks, including hairline cracks. Replace crumbly, soft firebrick liners. Make sure gaskets are still flexible. Clean or replace the stovepipe. Check for proper venting. Dispose of ashes in a closed metal container outside!
- **DON'T BURN COAL IN A WOOD STOVE!** Coal burns 3x hotter than wood. Coal stoves bring in air from underneath while wood stoves feed air above. Coal gas and moisture from wood are corrosive to pipes when mixed and cause pipe buildup. If you need to burn both coal and wood, use a **HYBRID or DUAL FUEL** stove. Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood!



For more info, please visit "Wood Stove Safety" at the Insurance Information Institute at <https://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>. Relatives, please take care and be safe.

Please call us at (505) 226-3073 with any questions. Our website is navajofamilies.org.

