



North Saanich Fire Department

Wood Burning Appliances

Over the years the North Saanich Fire Department has attended numerous chimney and house fires related to an improperly installed solid fuel (wood) burning appliance. It is the owner's responsibility to adhere to the District of North Saanich bylaws which require all solid fuel burning appliances have a permit prior to commencement of work.

As part of the permit process our WETT (Wood Energy Technology Transfer) certified inspectors from the fire department will provide a documented independent inspection. The inspection includes a check for code compliance with respect to clearances to combustibles, ensure certified components are used, check for adequate combustion air for the appliance and check the smoke/CO detectors which is often over-looked by the installer.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I require a permit for my solid fuel burning appliance?

Yes, Building Bylaw No. 1150 states "*chimney, fireplace, and solid fuel burning appliance permits are required, prior to commencement of work*" which includes installations and or alterations. This ensures that the work is safe, code compliant, and documented.

Is there a fee for a permit and what does this include?

Yes, there is a fee of \$50.00 and permits can be purchased at the Community Services Department at Municipal Hall. The permit includes site inspections for interim (framing stage) and final inspection conducted by a WETT certified inspector from the fire department. Inspection reports are provided to the owner and can be forwarded to their insurance provider as validation of approved installation of an appliance by the authority having jurisdiction.

What is considered to be a Solid Fuel (Wood) Burning appliance?

A solid fuel burning appliance is an appliance that uses wood as its fuel source. Masonry fireplace, furnaces, boilers, woodstoves, ranges, factory built fireplaces, pellet stove, inserts, and pizza ovens are all considered a solid fuel burning appliance.

What information should the installer provide to me?

The installer must provide an “Installer’s Declaration” (form given with the permit) and manuals from the manufacturer of the appliance on the use and maintenance.

What enforceable codes or standards need to be followed during installation, alteration, and maintenance of solid fuel burning appliances or construction of a fireplace for indoor or outdoor use?

Anyone performing an installation or alteration of a solid-fuel-burning appliance and equipment must follow the manufacturer’s installation specifications, Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B365-10 *Installation code for solid-fuel-burning appliances and equipment*. For a masonry fireplace, chimney, or flue, installers must adhere to the BC Building Code.

Who should take the responsibility for a permit?

It is the owner’s responsibility to *ensure* that a permit has been pulled for any new installation, repairs to an existing appliance or fireplace. Traditionally the installers have taken out the permit on the owner’s behalf as they are responsible to adhere to current codes and standards.

I purchased a used stove, how do I know if it is approved?

Any manufactured stove or insert must have proof of certification. Generally there will be a label affixed on the side or rear with a CAN/CSA, ULC, or Warner Hersey certification and a serial number.

Is a permit required when having the chimney cleaned?

No, even though the yearly maintenance requirements are set out in the BC Fire Code this is considered maintenance, so no permit is required. Maintenance requirements can also be found in the owner’s manual.

Can I use the chimney after a fire?

No, a chimney fire can create extreme heat up to 1100°F which can cause damage to brick and liners. After the fire has been extinguished, an inspection and cleaning from a certified company who will check for damage to the brick, liner, and pipes from the extreme heat is required.

For further information contact the North Saanich Fire Department at 250-656-1931