

# CHIMNEYS AND LINING

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## WHAT IS CHIMNEY LINING?

The function of a chimney is to safely remove the products of combustion from a fireplace or appliance to the outside of a building, without causing any danger to the occupants of the house.

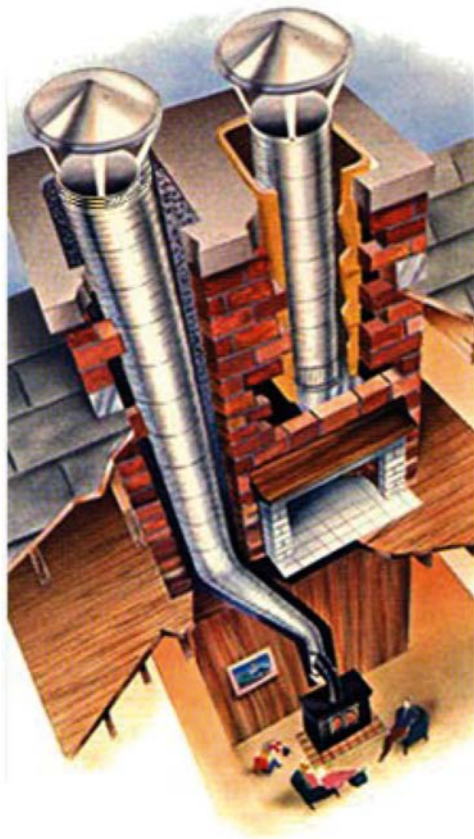
A chimney works because hot air rises and moves from high to low pressure. Factors such as running the appliance at a very slow rate or cold air leaking into the flue will cool the gases and affect the performance of the chimney.

Lining systems are designed to replace the flue in an existing chimney, with dimensions appropriate to the appliance.

Insulation may be added or integrated into the new flue system to improve the efficiency of the draught. This is a particular requirement for external situations.

## CHIMNEY TERMINOLOGY

- **Flue.** The void or passageway through which the products of combustion are removed from the fire to the outside.
- **Chimney.** The structure surrounding one or more flues.
- **Flue liner.** The material used to form the flue or flues within a chimney.
- **Chimney terminal.** This is the pot, cowl or other method of finishing the top of the chimney.
- **Flue pipe.** A metal pipe used to connect an appliance to the flue in a chimney.



## WHY LINE CHIMNEYS?

Chimneys are lined for a number of safety related reasons.

The illustration to the left shows two types of chimney system lining.

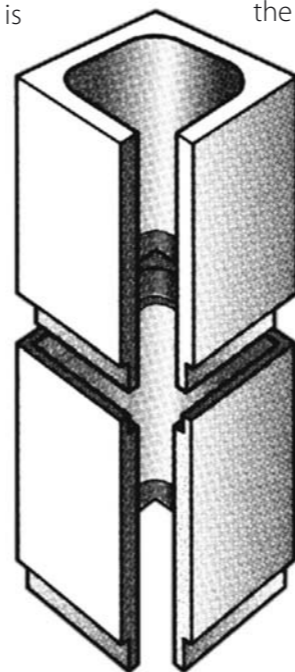
While new chimneys may require relining, systems that predate 1965 will often require a modern lining solution for the following reasons:

- The flue may have lost integrity and can leak smoke into rooms or other parts of the building.
- Condensates or tar can seep through chimney walls causing staining, inside or outside of the building.
- Lining with insulation included improves the operation of appliance and flue - particularly important when the chimney is situated on an external wall.
- Defective flue systems may be eroded and rough. This will cause frictional resistance to the flow of the gases resulting in poor updraught.
- Large flues over 200mm, particularly ones containing voids, may affect appliance performance. Some appliance manufacturers specify smaller flues for efficient operation.

## METHODS OF CHIMNEY RELINING AND RENOVATION

Chimneys with existing flues can be relined in several different ways. These include:

- Using rigid sections of clay, pumice or refractory liner installed by cutting into the chimney wall or by lowering sections down from the top of the stack and infilling with an insulating material.
- Insulating concrete, pumped in and around an inflatable former by a specialist contractor.
- Stainless steel flexible liner in a continuous length lowered down the chimney.



- Spray-on coating by a specialist contractor.
- Ceramic coating by a specialist contractor.

The suitability of any of these methods of lining is dependent on each individual system.

You should seek professional advice on the most appropriate solution for your need.

## BUILDING REGULATIONS

There is no regulation requiring an existing chimney to be lined. However, the installer of any appliance must satisfy themselves that the chimney is free from defects and suitable for its intended use.

If any work undertaken on the chimney, including installation of a new liner, is done in conjunction with the installation of a heating appliance, then that work is a controlled service and must be undertaken by a Competent Person or approved by your local area Building Control.

Please note that any alteration to a fireplace which renders it capable of being used for a different fuel e.g. from gas to solid fuel, is subject to Building Regulations.

**For more information see our Building Regulations and Legal Requirements advice leaflet.**

**ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE HETAS LOGO WHEN EMPLOYING AN INSTALLER**



**LOOK FOR THE HETAS LOGO WHEN FINDING A CHIMNEY SWEEP**



## CHIMNEY FAULTS

Before having a liner installed in your chimney, you should have the chimney swept by a professional chimney sweep to remove soot and tar deposits.

If you already have a chimney lining installed, a competent sweep will be able to inspect for the following faults:

- Liners fitted upside down
- Out of line or overlapping liner
- Obstructive ledges hindering updraught
- Protruding cement at joints
- Liner removed during previous service work or installation
- Damage through incorrect sweeping - see back of leaflet for listing of professional chimney sweep organisations
- Masonry damaging the liner
- Blocked terminal (cowl or rain cap)

These faults can lead to a number of problems with the operation of a solid fuel appliance. More importantly, faults with chimney lining can pose a risk to the safety of household occupants and should be rectified immediately.

## CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Chimneys should be swept **at least twice a year** when burning wood or bituminous house coal and **at least once a year** when burning smokeless fuels.

The best times to have your chimney swept are just before the start of the heating season and after any prolonged period of shut-down. If sweeping twice, the second time should be after the peak of the main heating season. We recommend using a HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep: [www.hetas.co.uk/find-chimney-sweep/](http://www.hetas.co.uk/find-chimney-sweep/)

## MORE INFORMATION



**The National Association of Chimney Engineers (NACE)** provide a register of competent chimney engineers in the UK and Ireland for a variety of chimney work.

0800 0924019 [www.nace.org.uk](http://www.nace.org.uk)



**The National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS)** promote high standards for sweeping, inspection and maintenance of chimneys, with a directory of approved sweeps on their web site.

01785 811732 [www.nacs.org.uk](http://www.nacs.org.uk)



**The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps** works to improve standards and professionalism in the UK chimney sweeping industry. They have a directory of Guild approved sweeps on their web site.

[www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)



**The Association of Professional and Independent Chimney Sweeps** sets standards for, and improve the knowledge and safety of sweeps in the UK.

0845 604 4327 [www.apics.org.uk](http://www.apics.org.uk)

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