

DON'T LET DOLLARS DISAPPEAR UP YOUR CHIMNEY!



You wouldn't leave a window wide open in cold weather. Having a fireplace with an open flue damper is the same as having a window open. That sends precious winter heat and money right up the chimney!



Powering The Center of What's Possible

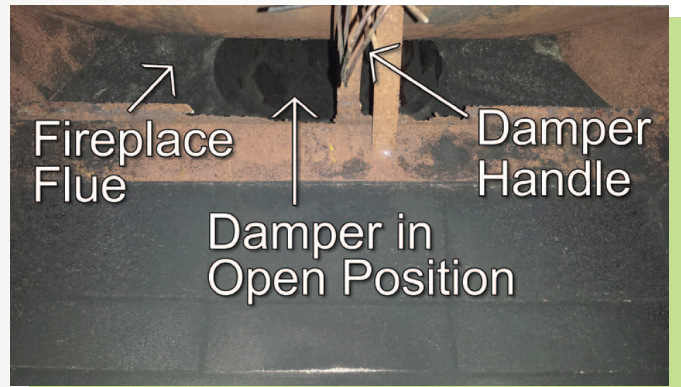
Here's how you can heat your home, and not the neighborhood!

KEEP THE FIREPLACE DAMPER CLOSED WHEN THE FIREPLACE IS NOT BEING USED

The damper is a flap inside the chimney or flue. It has an open and a closed position. When a fire is burning, the damper should be in the open position to allow smoke to escape up the fireplace flue and out the chimney.

When you're not using the fireplace, the damper should be closed.

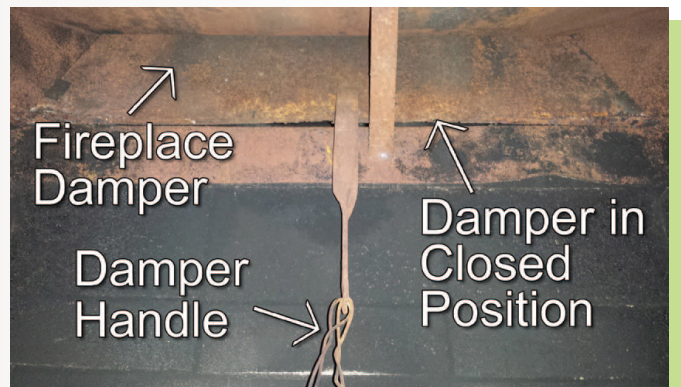
If you can't see the handle or chain that opens and closes the damper, use a flashlight and look up inside the chimney flue. The handle could be a lever that moves side to side or back and forth. If a chain operates the damper, you may have to pull both sides to determine which one closes or opens the damper.



KEEP YOUR HEAT IN YOUR HOME!

Even the most energy efficient homes can fall victim to fireplace air leaks. Your fireplace may be reserved for a handful of special occasions or especially cold nights. When it's not in use, though, your home loses heat – and costs you money – without you knowing it.

Using the heat from your fireplace on a cold winter night may be cozy, but that fire is a very inefficient way to warm up the room. The heat disappearing up the chimney draws cool air into your house, and that air must then be warmed by your central heating system or other source of heat. That uses energy that you pay for!



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FIGHT AVOIDABLE HEAT LOSS AND SAVE MONEY!

Here are some other fireplace flue damper tips:



If your flue damper handle has a loop, you can hang a small sign, piece of ribbon or even the fireplace poker when it's closed so that you remember to open it before lighting a fire.



If you don't have a damper, or the one you have doesn't fit properly, there are inflatable flue plugs available online to close off the flue. Remember to remove the flue plug before you light a fire.



Remember that an open flue and chimney not only loses your heat in winter, it also will vent the comfortable cool air from your home during the summer.



Be careful, since ash and grit may fall from the damper when you move it.



Closing the damper can also prevent insects or small birds from entering your home.



Wearing dishwashing gloves can help keep your hands clean.



A certified chimney sweep can clean your chimney as well as check that the fireplace and flue damper are working effectively.



Visit www.energy.gov and enter a search for "chimney" to get some great tips on keeping your house cozy and warm – and your fireplace energy efficient!

