Permits are required for the installation of all solid fuel burning appliances. Any wood burning or other solid fuel burning appliance installed without a permit and approved inspection is a code violation and may invalidate your fire insurance policy.

No used solid fuel burning device (wood stoves, pellet stoves, manufactured fireplaces) may be installed in new or existing buildings unless it has been certified by the EPA. As of January 1995, all new wood burning devices sold in Washington State must meet more stringent emissions standards.

On January 1, 1997 new building codes became effective which addressed fireplace standards. The new regulations require that new factory built fireplaces meet the United States Environmental Protection Agency emission standards. Only certified, emission-tested, and labeled factory-built fireplaces may be sold or installed in Washington. Site built (masonry) fireplaces may continue to be built but may not be used during impaired air quality conditions unless they have been tested and labeled as meeting the EPA standards. For more information on air quality regulations and standards visit the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency website at www.spokanecleanair.org

How do I apply for a permit?

A complete application identifying the type of appliance proposed is all that’s necessary to submit your permit application. Permit applications are available at our offices or on our website.

Listed appliances:

In addition to the above emission related requirements, appliances which are “approved” or “listed” by approved testing agencies, such as Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.), the International Code Council (I.C.C.), etc., are strongly recommended—these units have been tested and approved under extreme conditions. If you have purchased or are using a “listed” appliance, follow the listing instructions for installation and clearance requirements. Note: Appliances installed in garages shall be a minimum of 18” above the floor per the International Mechanical Code (Section Chapter 3).

Manufactured Home installations:

Wood burning appliances to be installed in mobile manufactured homes must be specifically “listed” for that purpose. Do not install unlisted appliances in manufactured homes. Permits are required to be obtained from the Washington State Manufactured Home Division, Department of Labor and Industries located at 901 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA (324-2640).

Vent connector:

The vent connector or stove pipe is the pipe that connects the appliance to the chimney. The minimum clearance from a single wall vent connector to an unprotected combustible wall or ceiling is 18”.

Chimneys:

Chimneys shall be constructed of masonry in accordance with the International Residential Code requirements or shall be approved factory built assemblies “listed” or “approved” by U.L., ICC - Evaluation Services, or other recognized agencies for use with wood burning or other solid fuel burning appliances. The “listed” or “approved” chimney assemblies shall be installed in accordance with their listings. The required clearance from the chimney to combustibles will be indicated on each section of chimney. The minimum clearance for a interior masonry chimney is 2”. The minimum clearance for an exterior masonry chimney is 1”.

Spokane County Department of Building and Planning

Woodstove Installations

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Note: Metal liners installed in masonry chimneys or relined chimneys shall be of approved “listed” materials and installed in accordance with the listing.

Chimney height termination:
The chimney shall terminate at a point not less than 2 feet above any portion of a structure within a 10 foot radius of the chimney but not less than 3’ above the highest point where the chimney passes through the roof.

Wood burning furnaces:
Wood burning furnaces must be installed according to their approved “listing.” If it is not a listed appliance check with the Department of Building & Planning to see if the particular unit is acceptable.

“Add-on” furnaces must be listed and approved specifically for that use.

Duct systems for all wood or solid fuel burning appliances must, at a minimum, comply with the requirements of NFPA 89-M (Table 2-3).

Inspections
Inspection and approval of your solid fuel-burning appliance is required prior to use. Items reviewed generally relate to required clearances to combustibles and installation of any clearance reducing protection.

Regulations related to wood burning
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency enforces state and local regulations for solid fuel burning devices (e.g. wood stoves, pellet stoves, fireplace inserts).

Spokane Regional Clean Air ..................... (509) 477-4727
Burn Info Line .........................................(509) 477-4710
www.spokanecleanair.org

Other brochures that may be helpful
BP-4 Permit Fee Schedule
BP-6 Residential Building Permits
BP-51 Application Submittal Requirements for Building Permits
BP-52 Permit Processing Time Savers
APPROVED CHIMNEY CONNECTION

NOTE: SHEET ROCK IS CONSIDERED A COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL

CHIMNEY MUST TERMINATE A MINIMUM OF 2 FEET ABOVE ANY POINT MEASURED WITHIN 10 FEET OR 2 FEET ABOVE RIDGE

LISTED METAL CHIMNEY

CLEARANCE AS REQUIRED BY LISTING

*COMBUSTIBLE WALL

1 INCH MINIMUM AIR SPACE

VENT CONNECTOR

MECHANICAL FASTENERS AT PIPE CONNECTIONS

REQUIRED CLEARANCES

APPROVED WALL PROTECTION (IF NECESSARY)

REQUIRED CLEARANCE FLOOR COVERING AND HEARTH EXTENSION AS REQUIRED
Please note that while every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information contained in this brochure it is not warranted for accuracy. This document is not intended to address all aspects or regulatory requirements for a project and should serve as a starting point for your investigation. For detailed information on a particular project, permit, or code requirement refer directly to applicable file and/or code/regulatory documents or contact the appropriate division or staff.

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