

CALGARY FIREPLACES

Fireplace Maintenance

Annual service, cleaning, gas valve testing, and repair for all fireplace types in Calgary

27 Expert Answers from Fireplace IQ

calgaryfireplaces.com/construction-brain

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How do I prevent dust buildup inside a Calgary electric fireplace during summer?

Electric fireplaces accumulate dust during Calgary's long off-season from May through September, but regular cleaning and proper storage preparation will keep your unit running efficiently when heating season returns.

Dust buildup is particularly problematic in Calgary electric fireplaces because our heating season runs roughly October through April — six full months when the fireplace gets heavy use, followed by five months of sitting idle. During this extended off-season, dust settles on the heating elements, fan blades, and internal components, reducing efficiency and potentially creating burning odors when you restart the unit in fall.

Start with a thorough spring cleaning once you're done using the fireplace for the season, typically late April or early May. Unplug the unit and allow it to cool completely. Remove the front glass panel if possible (most Calgary electric fireplaces have removable panels) and vacuum the interior with a soft brush attachment. Pay special attention to the heating coils, fan blades, and air intake vents where dust accumulates most heavily. Wipe down the interior surfaces with a slightly damp microfiber cloth, being careful to avoid any electrical components. Clean the glass panel with appropriate glass cleaner — not household cleaners that can leave residue.

Cover or close the unit during summer months to minimize dust infiltration. If your electric fireplace has glass doors, keep them closed. For wall-mounted units without doors, consider a breathable fabric cover designed for electronics — avoid plastic covers that can trap moisture. Built-in units should have their air intake vents covered with removable filters or breathable material. Many Calgary homeowners place a clean sheet or light fabric over the entire fireplace surround during summer to protect both the unit and the mantel area.

Calgary's dry climate and chinook winds create additional dust challenges. Our low humidity levels mean dust particles stay airborne longer and settle more readily on surfaces. During chinook events, the rapid air pressure changes can actually draw more dust into fireplace cavities. Consider running a small dehumidifier in the room during particularly dry summer periods, and change your home's HVAC filters more frequently to reduce overall dust circulation.

Perform a mid-summer check around July to vacuum any accumulated dust from external vents and wipe down visible surfaces. This prevents heavy buildup that becomes harder to remove. Before restarting your electric fireplace in fall — typically late September or early October when Calgary temperatures start dropping — do another thorough cleaning and test all functions to ensure dust hasn't affected the heating elements or fan operation.

For hardwired electric fireplaces that required electrical permits during installation, consider having an electrician inspect the unit annually if it's heavily used. While electric fireplaces are generally low-maintenance compared to gas units, ensuring proper electrical connections and clean components extends the life of your investment and maintains safe operation during Calgary's long heating season.

Need help finding an electrician for electric fireplace maintenance? Find certified electrical contractors through the Calgary Construction Network for professional service and peace of mind.

Q2

How much does it cost to replace firebrick panels in a Calgary wood-burning fireplace?

Firebrick panel replacement in Calgary typically costs \$300-\$800 for materials and labor, depending on the fireplace size and whether you need standard firebrick or specialized refractory panels.

The cost breaks down into materials (\$150-\$400) and labor (\$150-\$400). Standard firebrick runs \$3-\$6 per brick, while you'll need 20-40 bricks for a typical residential firebox depending on size. High-temperature refractory panels cost \$8-\$15 per square foot. Labor costs vary based on accessibility — simple replacements in open fireboxes take 2-3 hours, while tight insert fireboxes or custom-fitted panels can take 4-6 hours.

Material costs depend on your specific fireplace type. Traditional masonry fireplaces use standard firebrick that's readily available at Calgary building supply stores like Home Depot, Rona, or specialized masonry suppliers. Wood stove inserts and prefabricated fireplaces often require manufacturer-specific refractory panels that cost more but provide exact fit and optimal heat reflection. Popular wood stove brands in Calgary like Napoleon, Osburn, and Pacific Energy stock replacement panels through local dealers.

Calgary's extreme winter conditions make firebrick maintenance more critical than in milder climates.

During the 6-month heating season from October through April, wood-burning fireplaces accumulate heavy use, and the repeated heating cycles from room temperature to 1,000°F+ cause thermal stress. Cracked or deteriorated firebrick reduces heating efficiency and can allow dangerous heat transfer to combustible framing materials. Chinook temperature swings add thermal shock that accelerates firebrick deterioration.

Timing your replacement strategically saves money. Schedule firebrick work during spring or summer when fireplace contractors have lighter workloads — you'll often get better pricing and faster scheduling. Fall and early winter are peak seasons when contractors are busy with heating system repairs and installations.

You can handle simple firebrick replacement yourself if you're handy, but complex work requires

professionals. Replacing a few cracked bricks in an accessible firebox is straightforward DIY work — clean out old mortar, fit new bricks with refractory mortar, and allow 24-48 hours curing time before use. However, extensive panel replacement, custom fitting, or work in tight insert fireboxes should be done by a WETT-certified technician who can ensure proper clearances and heat-resistant mortar application.

When to hire a professional: If your fireplace needs more than 6-8 individual bricks replaced, if you're dealing with a wood stove insert requiring disassembly, if the firebox has structural damage beyond just cracked firebrick, or if you're uncomfortable working with refractory materials and high-temperature mortar. A WETT-certified installer ensures the work meets Canadian standards and maintains your insurance coverage.

Annual inspection prevents costly replacements. Have your wood-burning fireplace inspected each fall before heating season begins. Catching small cracks early means replacing individual bricks for \$50-\$100 rather than complete panel systems for \$500-\$800. Calgary's heavy winter use makes this preventive maintenance especially important.

Need help finding a WETT-certified fireplace professional for firebrick replacement? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with qualified installers through the Calgary Construction Network.

Q3

What is the best way to store a Calgary wood stove chimney brush between uses?

Store your chimney brush in a dry location away from moisture, and clean it thoroughly after each use to prevent creosote buildup from hardening on the bristles. Proper storage extends brush life and ensures it's ready for your next cleaning session.

After cleaning your wood stove chimney, rinse the brush thoroughly with warm water to remove loose creosote and debris. For stubborn creosote deposits on the bristles, use a wire brush or old toothbrush to scrub them clean. Allow the brush to air dry completely before storage — wet bristles can develop rust on steel brushes or mold on natural fiber brushes.

Choose a storage location that stays dry year-round. Your garage, basement workshop, or utility room works well, but avoid areas prone to moisture like crawl spaces or unheated sheds where Calgary's extreme temperature swings can cause condensation. Hang the brush on a wall hook or store it in a large plastic container to keep it off the ground and away from rodents. If you have a poly brush, avoid storing it near heat sources that could melt the

bristles.

Calgary's long heating season means you'll likely use your chimney brush 2-3 times per year — once before the heating season starts in October, once mid-winter during a warm chinook period when it's safe to work on the roof, and once after the heating season ends in April. Between uses, inspect the brush for worn or bent bristles that could reduce cleaning effectiveness.

For wood stoves in Calgary, annual chimney cleaning is essential given our 6-month heating season and the heavy creosote buildup that occurs with regular use. A well-maintained brush stored properly will last 5-10 years of typical residential use. Replace the brush when bristles become significantly worn, bent, or start falling out during cleaning.

Remember that chimney cleaning is physically demanding and potentially dangerous work, especially during Calgary winters when roofs are icy and winds can be severe. Many homeowners prefer hiring a WETT-certified chimney sweep rather than doing the work themselves. If you do clean your own chimney, never work on the roof during icy conditions or high winds — wait for a calm, dry day with good footing.

Need help finding a WETT-certified chimney professional? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with qualified wood stove and chimney specialists through the Calgary Construction Network.

How do I maintain the exterior finish of my Calgary freestanding gas stove?

Regular cleaning and protective maintenance will keep your freestanding gas stove's exterior finish looking great and functioning properly through Calgary's demanding climate conditions. The specific maintenance approach depends on your stove's finish material — painted steel, cast iron, or specialty coatings each require different care.

Painted steel finishes are the most common on modern freestanding gas stoves and need gentle but consistent maintenance. Clean monthly during the heating season using a soft microfiber cloth and mild dish soap solution, working when the stove is completely cool. Avoid abrasive cleaners or steel wool that can scratch the paint and create rust points. For stubborn spots, use a plastic scraper rather than metal tools. Touch up any chips or scratches immediately with high-temperature stove paint (available at Calgary fireplace dealers) to prevent rust from starting — Calgary's temperature swings and indoor humidity changes during chinook events can accelerate corrosion in damaged areas.

Cast iron stoves require more specialized care but develop a beautiful patina over time. Clean with a stiff brush and warm soapy water, then dry thoroughly to prevent rust. Apply a thin coat of high-temperature stove polish or paste wax designed for cast iron 2-3 times per heating season. This protects against moisture and maintains the rich black finish that cast iron is known for. Never use regular furniture polish or automotive wax — these will burn off and create smoke when the stove heats up.

Specialty finishes like porcelain enamel or textured coatings need manufacturer-specific care products. Check your owner's manual for approved cleaners, as using the wrong product can permanently damage these premium finishes. Porcelain enamel is extremely durable but can chip if struck, so handle cleaning tools carefully around the stove.

Calgary's climate creates specific maintenance challenges for freestanding stoves. The long heating season from October through April means your stove accumulates more dust, pet hair, and household debris than stoves in milder climates. Chinook events bring rapid humidity changes that can cause condensation on cool stove surfaces, leading to water spots and potential rust issues if not addressed. Clean more frequently during active chinook periods when indoor humidity fluctuates dramatically.

Monthly maintenance routine: Vacuum around the stove base and behind the unit to remove dust buildup that can affect air circulation. Wipe down all exterior surfaces with appropriate cleaners. Check the area around gas connections and venting for any signs of corrosion or damage — Calgary's temperature extremes can cause fittings to expand and contract more than normal. Inspect the stove's legs or base for any signs of rust or finish damage where it contacts the floor.

Annual professional service should include exterior inspection along with internal cleaning and safety checks. A qualified technician will spot finish problems early and can recommend touch-up procedures before minor issues become major refinishing projects. This is especially important given Calgary's heavy fireplace usage — your stove works harder here than in milder climates.

When to call a professional: If you notice rust spots spreading, finish bubbling or peeling, or any structural damage to the stove body, contact a fireplace service technician. These issues can affect both appearance and safety, particularly around gas connections and venting components. Never attempt to repair gas connections or internal components yourself — this requires a licensed gas fitter.

Need help finding a fireplace service professional for annual maintenance? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with experienced technicians who understand the specific demands Calgary's climate places on gas stoves.

Q5

What is the cost of a complete gas fireplace tune-up in Calgary before winter?

A complete gas fireplace tune-up in Calgary typically costs \$150-\$250, with most homeowners paying around \$200 for a thorough pre-winter service. This annual maintenance is essential given Calgary's six-month heating season and the heavy use your fireplace will see during those brutal -25°C to -35°C cold snaps.

What's Included in a Complete Tune-Up

A proper gas fireplace service includes cleaning the firebox and glass, inspecting and cleaning the burner and control compartment, testing all safety systems (oxygen depletion sensor, flame sensor, gas valve operation), checking venting for obstructions or damage, testing the ignition system and remote control, inspecting gas connections for leaks, and verifying proper combustion air flow. The technician will also test carbon monoxide levels and ensure the fireplace is operating at peak efficiency before Calgary's heating season begins.

Why Pre-Winter Service Matters in Calgary

Calgary's extreme climate makes annual fireplace maintenance more critical than in milder regions. Your gas fireplace will likely run 4-6 hours daily during January and February cold snaps, accumulating 400-600 operating hours over the heating season. Dust, pet hair, and debris that accumulate over the summer can cause poor combustion, reduced efficiency, and safety issues when you fire up the unit for the first time in October. A dirty burner or blocked venting can cause incomplete combustion, creating carbon monoxide risk in your home.

Timing and Seasonal Considerations

Book your tune-up in September or early October before demand peaks. Many Calgary fireplace service companies get booked solid once the first cold snap hits in late October, and you don't want to discover a problem when you need heat most. Some companies offer summer service discounts in July and August when demand is lowest. If you haven't used your fireplace in over a year, or if you notice unusual odors, yellow flames instead of blue, or the glass getting dirty quickly, don't wait — schedule service immediately.

Additional Costs to Consider

The base tune-up covers cleaning and inspection, but repairs are extra. Common issues that add to the cost include replacing the thermocouple (\$75-\$150), cleaning or replacing the pilot assembly (\$100-\$200), or replacing worn gaskets and seals (\$50-\$150). If your fireplace hasn't been serviced in several years, expect potential additional costs for parts that wear out with heavy Calgary use.

When to Call a Professional

Never attempt to service gas fireplace components yourself — gas appliance work in Alberta must be performed by licensed gas fitters. If you smell gas, see yellow flames, notice excessive condensation on windows, or if the fireplace won't light reliably, shut off the gas supply and call for service immediately. These can indicate serious safety issues that require professional diagnosis.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace service technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who understand Calgary's climate demands and can ensure your fireplace is ready for another long Alberta winter.

Q6

What annual maintenance checklist should I follow for my Calgary pellet stove?

Pellet stoves require more frequent maintenance than gas fireplaces due to their mechanical components and ash production, but following a proper schedule will keep your unit running efficiently through Calgary's long heating season.

Pellet stoves are popular on acreages and rural properties around Calgary where wood pellets provide cost-effective heating during our six-month winter season. Unlike gas fireplaces that burn cleanly with minimal residue, pellet stoves burn compressed wood pellets that create ash, require mechanical auger systems to feed fuel, and need regular cleaning to maintain proper airflow and combustion efficiency.

Monthly maintenance during heating season (October through April in Calgary) should include emptying the ash pan when it's one-third full, cleaning the glass door with appropriate cleaner, and checking that the exhaust vent cap outside isn't blocked by snow or ice buildup. Calgary's extreme cold and heavy snowfall can block exterior vents, causing poor combustion and potential carbon monoxide issues. Also inspect the hopper for pellet dust accumulation and vacuum it out if needed — fine dust can jam the auger mechanism.

Weekly tasks during heavy use periods include checking the burn pot for clinker buildup (hard, glassy deposits that form from low-quality pellets or poor combustion), scraping it clean if necessary, and ensuring the door gasket seals properly. A loose door seal reduces efficiency and can cause the stove to burn poorly during Calgary's coldest weather when you need maximum heat output.

Annual professional service should be scheduled every spring after the heating season ends. A qualified technician will thoroughly clean the exhaust system, inspect and clean the combustion blower and convection fan, check electrical connections, calibrate the control board, and inspect the auger motor and feed system. This service typically costs \$200-\$350 in Calgary and is essential because pellet stoves have more moving parts than gas fireplaces and accumulate significantly more debris over a full heating season.

Chimney and venting inspection is critical in Calgary due to our chinook wind events that can affect draft and cause backdrafting. The exhaust vent should be inspected annually for blockages, corrosion, or separation at joints. Unlike simple gas fireplace venting, pellet stove exhaust systems handle particulate matter and operate under positive pressure, making proper sealing essential for safety.

Use only premium-grade pellets with low ash content (under 1%) and avoid cheap pellets that create excessive clinkers and ash. Store pellets in a dry location — Calgary's humidity swings during chinook events can cause pellets to absorb moisture and burn poorly. A 40-pound bag of quality pellets costs \$6-\$8 in Calgary and burns cleaner than bargain pellets that require more frequent cleaning.

Install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors as required by the Alberta Building Code for any home with fuel-burning appliances. Test monthly and replace batteries annually. Pellet stoves, like all combustion appliances, can produce carbon monoxide if not properly maintained or if venting becomes blocked.

When to call a professional: Any issues with the auger not feeding pellets, unusual noises from the blowers, error codes on the control panel, or poor combustion (lazy yellow flames instead of bright, active flames) require professional diagnosis. Don't attempt to repair electrical components or the exhaust system yourself.

Need help finding a qualified pellet stove service technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who specialize in pellet stove maintenance and repair through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Mayken Hazmat Solutions LTD
- Keystone Exteriors
- Turnbull masonry
- Onsite Contracting and Electrical Services

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How do I replace the battery in my Calgary gas fireplace remote receiver?

Most Calgary gas fireplace remote receivers use AA or 9V batteries that can be replaced by homeowners, but the receiver location and battery type varies by manufacturer and model.

The remote receiver is typically a small black or gray box mounted inside your fireplace unit, often behind the lower louver or control panel. You'll need to locate this receiver first — it's usually connected to your gas valve with a wire harness and has a small LED light that blinks when you press the remote. The receiver is separate from the remote control itself, which also has batteries that may need replacement.

For the receiver battery replacement, start by turning off your gas fireplace completely and ensuring it's cool. Remove the lower louver or access panel to locate the receiver unit. Most receivers have a sliding battery compartment or a small door secured with a Phillips head screw. Common battery types in Calgary gas fireplaces include AA alkaline batteries (Napoleon, Regency models) or a single 9V battery (older Heat & Glo, Majestic units). When replacing, note the positive and negative orientation carefully — incorrect installation can damage the receiver's electronics.

If your remote control is also unresponsive, replace those batteries too. Most fireplace remotes use AAA batteries and have a small compartment on the back. After replacing both sets of batteries, you may need to re-sync the remote with the receiver by holding down specific button combinations — check your owner's manual for the exact sequence, as this varies by manufacturer.

Calgary's extreme temperature swings during chinook events can affect battery life in gas fireplace electronics. The rapid temperature changes from -25°C to +10°C can cause batteries to drain faster than normal, so Calgary homeowners often need to replace fireplace remote batteries annually rather than every 2-3 years like in more stable climates.

When to call a professional: If replacing the batteries doesn't restore function, if you can't locate the receiver, or if the receiver appears to have corrosion or damage, contact a qualified gas technician. Never attempt to repair or modify the gas valve or receiver electronics yourself — this requires a licensed gas fitter. Also, if your fireplace is still under warranty, check whether DIY battery replacement affects coverage before proceeding.

For annual fireplace maintenance in Calgary, including battery replacement and full system inspection, expect to pay \$150-\$250. Many homeowners schedule this service in early fall before the heating season begins.

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- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Mr & Mrs Paintastic Inc
- Keystone Exteriors
- The Original Workshop
- Eshine Cleaning Services

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Q8

How often should I have my gas fireplace serviced in Calgary?

Gas fireplaces in Calgary should be serviced annually, ideally in early fall before the heating season begins. Given Calgary's long winter heating season (October through April) and heavy fireplace usage during extreme cold snaps, annual maintenance is essential for safety, efficiency, and reliability.

Why Annual Service is Critical in Calgary

Calgary's brutal winters mean your gas fireplace will likely run for 6+ months of heavy use, accumulating far more operating hours than fireplaces in milder climates. During those -25°C to -35°C cold snaps that can last for weeks, your fireplace becomes a crucial supplemental heating source, not just an occasional ambiance feature. This extended use creates more wear on components like the thermocouple, pilot assembly, and heat exchanger.

Calgary's chinook winds add another maintenance factor unique to our region. The rapid temperature swings from -25°C to +10°C in a matter of hours can affect chimney draft and put thermal stress on fireplace components. The repeated expansion and contraction cycles accelerate wear on seals, gaskets, and venting connections.

What Annual Service Should Include

A proper gas fireplace service in Calgary should cover cleaning the firebox and removing debris, inspecting and cleaning the burner assembly and pilot light, checking gas connections for leaks using soapy water or electronic detection, testing the thermocouple and thermopile for proper millivolt output, examining the heat exchanger for cracks or corrosion, verifying proper venting and checking for blockages or damage, testing safety controls including the oxygen depletion sensor, cleaning the glass doors and checking door seals, and inspecting the remote control or wall switch operation.

Timing and Cost Considerations

Schedule your service in September or early October, before you need the fireplace for heating. This timing ensures any needed repairs can be completed before the busy winter season when service calls are more expensive and technicians are harder to book. Annual gas fireplace service in Calgary typically costs \$150-\$250, depending on the unit's complexity and any minor repairs needed.

Between Service Inspections

Monthly during heating season, visually inspect the glass doors for cracks, test your carbon monoxide detectors, and watch for any changes in flame color or pattern. Blue flames are normal; yellow or orange flames indicate incomplete combustion and require immediate professional attention. If you smell gas, hear unusual noises, or notice the fireplace isn't heating as effectively, don't wait for your annual service—call a technician immediately.

When to Call for Emergency Service

Never ignore warning signs like gas odors, yellow flames, excessive condensation on the glass, or the fireplace shutting off unexpectedly. These can indicate serious safety issues that require immediate professional attention, especially important when outdoor temperatures are life-threatening.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who understand Calgary's unique climate challenges and can keep your fireplace running safely all winter long.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Allure Residential & Commercial inc
- Upper Cut Landscaping LTD
- Makki Abatement
- Mr & Mrs Paintastic Inc

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Q9

How much does it cost to replace the refractory panels in a Calgary gas fireplace?

Replacing refractory panels in a Calgary gas fireplace typically costs \$200-\$600 for parts and labor, depending on the fireplace size, panel material, and whether you need a service call or can handle the replacement yourself.

Refractory panels (also called fire bricks or firebox liners) are the heat-resistant ceramic or vermiculite panels that line the inside of your gas fireplace firebox. They protect the metal firebox walls from extreme heat and help radiate warmth back into the room. In Calgary's climate, where gas fireplaces often run 4-6 hours daily during our long heating season from October through April, these panels experience significant thermal cycling and eventually crack, chip, or crumble from repeated heating and cooling.

Cost breakdown for Calgary homeowners: Individual refractory panels range from \$30-\$80 each depending on size and material. A typical gas fireplace uses 3-6 panels, so parts alone cost \$90-\$480. If you're comfortable with basic DIY work and can access the panels easily, this is often a homeowner-friendly repair. However, many Calgary homeowners prefer having their annual fireplace service technician handle the replacement during routine maintenance, which adds \$100-\$150 in labor costs.

Signs your refractory panels need replacement include visible cracks wider than 1/4 inch, crumbling edges, pieces falling into the firebox, or panels that have shifted out of position. Damaged panels reduce heating efficiency and can allow excessive heat to reach the firebox walls, potentially causing more expensive damage to the heat exchanger or other components.

Calgary-specific considerations: Our extreme temperature swings, especially during chinook events when outdoor temperatures can jump 30 degrees in hours, accelerate thermal stress on refractory panels. Panels in Calgary fireplaces typically need replacement every 5-8 years with regular use, compared to 8-12 years in milder climates. The rapid temperature changes cause the ceramic material to expand and contract more aggressively than normal seasonal cycling.

When to hire a professional: While panel replacement is often DIY-friendly, consider professional service if your fireplace hasn't been serviced recently. A qualified technician can inspect the entire firebox, clean the burner and control compartment, test safety systems, and ensure proper panel positioning. This is especially important in Calgary where heavy winter use can reveal other maintenance needs. Annual service typically costs \$150-\$250 and includes cleaning, safety inspection, and minor repairs like panel replacement.

Important safety note: Always turn off the gas supply and allow the fireplace to cool completely before attempting any panel replacement. If you smell gas or notice any issues with the burner or gas controls during the repair, stop immediately and call a licensed gas fitter.

Need help finding a qualified fireplace service technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who service gas fireplaces and handle refractory panel replacement as part of comprehensive

maintenance.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Alpine Exteriors siding and roofing
- Mayken Hazmat Solutions LTD
- The Original Workshop
- Bracha Concrete & Coatings Inc.

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How much does a gas fireplace ignition module replacement cost in Calgary?

A gas fireplace ignition module replacement in Calgary typically costs **\$200-\$500 for the part plus \$150-\$300 for professional installation, bringing the total to \$350-\$800**. The wide range depends on your fireplace brand, ignition type (intermittent pilot vs. direct spark), and whether it's a simple module swap or requires additional diagnostic work.

The **ignition module** (also called an ignition control board) is the electronic brain that controls when and how your gas fireplace lights. When it fails, you'll typically see symptoms like the fireplace not lighting at all, lighting but immediately shutting off, or the pilot light not staying lit. In Calgary's climate where gas fireplaces run heavily from October through April, ignition modules experience more operating cycles than in milder climates, making failure more common after 8-12 years of regular use.

Part costs vary significantly by manufacturer and complexity. Basic intermittent pilot ignition modules for brands like Napoleon or Regency run \$200-\$350, while advanced direct spark ignition systems for premium units like Heat & Glo or Valor can cost \$400-\$500 or more. The module must be an exact match for your fireplace model — using an incorrect module can damage other components or create safety hazards.

Professional installation is required because this work involves gas appliance repair, which must be performed by a licensed gas fitter under Alberta regulations. The technician will shut off the gas supply, disconnect the old module, install the new one, reconnect all wiring and gas controls, test the ignition sequence, and verify proper operation. This typically takes 1-2 hours at \$100-\$150 per hour for service calls in Calgary.

Diagnostic fees of \$100-\$150 are common if the problem isn't immediately obvious. Sometimes what appears to be ignition module failure is actually a faulty thermocouple, gas valve issue, or wiring problem. A qualified technician can determine the root cause and avoid unnecessary part replacement.

Calgary's extreme cold affects ignition reliability — modules work harder during -25°C to -35°C cold snaps when homeowners rely heavily on fireplace heating. Additionally, chinook wind pressure changes can stress electronic components over time. Annual fireplace maintenance helps identify ignition system issues before complete failure occurs.

When to replace vs. repair the entire fireplace: If your gas fireplace is over 15 years old and the ignition module fails, consider whether other components (heat exchanger, gas valve, blower) are also nearing end-of-life. Sometimes investing \$600-\$800 in ignition repair on an aging unit doesn't make financial sense compared to a new \$3,000-\$6,000 fireplace installation.

DIY replacement is not recommended — gas appliance repair requires a licensed gas fitter, and improper installation can cause gas leaks, carbon monoxide issues, or damage to other fireplace components. Always hire a qualified professional for gas fireplace ignition work.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who specialize in gas fireplace repair and service.

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- Durable Decks
- UR COWRY CABINETS

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Q11

When should I replace my Calgary gas fireplace instead of repairing it?

Replace your Calgary gas fireplace when repair costs exceed 50-60% of a new unit's price, when the heat exchanger is cracked, or when the unit is over 15-20 years old and experiencing multiple component failures. Given Calgary's heavy fireplace usage during our 6-month heating season, older units often reach a point where replacement makes more financial sense than continued repairs.

Major red flags that signal replacement over repair include a cracked heat exchanger, which cannot be safely repaired and poses a carbon monoxide risk. If your gas fireplace is short-cycling (turning on and off rapidly), producing yellow flames instead of blue, or if the glass stays fogged even after cleaning, these often indicate heat exchanger problems. Similarly, if the pilot light won't stay lit despite multiple service calls, or if you're smelling gas near the unit, these are safety issues that may require full replacement depending on the underlying cause.

Age and efficiency considerations become critical in Calgary's climate. Gas fireplaces manufactured before 2005 typically operate at 60-70% efficiency, while modern direct-vent units achieve 75-85% efficiency. With ATCO Gas rates around \$4-5 per GJ and Calgary's long heating season, upgrading from a 15-year-old 65% efficient unit to a

modern 80% efficient fireplace can save \$100-200 annually in gas costs. Over the unit's 15-20 year lifespan, this efficiency gain helps offset the replacement cost.

Cost analysis for Calgary market conditions shows that major component replacements often approach new unit costs. A new gas valve runs \$300-500, control board replacement costs \$400-600, and if you need both plus labour, you're looking at \$1,200-1,800 in repairs. Meanwhile, a quality new direct-vent gas fireplace with installation ranges from \$3,500-6,000. If your current unit needs multiple expensive repairs within a year or two, replacement typically makes more sense.

Calgary's extreme temperature swings from chinook winds accelerate wear on fireplace components, particularly gas valves and electronic controls that expand and contract with rapid temperature changes. Units experiencing repeated control failures during chinook events often benefit from replacement with newer models that have more robust electronic systems designed for variable climate conditions.

Consider replacement when upgrading makes sense for your home's current needs. If your existing fireplace is too small for your space during Calgary's -30°C cold snaps, or if you want to upgrade from a basic builder-grade unit to a larger, more efficient model with better heat output and flame presentation, replacement allows you to properly size the new unit for maximum comfort and efficiency.

Modern safety features in new gas fireplaces include better oxygen depletion sensors, more reliable electronic ignition systems, and improved venting designs that perform better in Calgary's variable wind conditions. If your older unit lacks these safety features, replacement provides peace of mind during our long winter heating season.

When repair still makes sense: If your gas fireplace is under 10 years old, has a good maintenance history, and needs only minor component replacement (thermocouple, pilot assembly, or glass replacement), repair is usually the better choice. Annual maintenance by a qualified technician can extend your fireplace's life significantly in Calgary's demanding climate.

Need help finding a fireplace installer to evaluate replacement options? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who can assess your current unit and provide estimates for both repair and replacement to help you make the most cost-effective decision.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Makki Abatement
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- Keystone Exteriors

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Q12

Can I clean my own chimney or do I need a professional in Calgary?

You should hire a professional chimney sweep for cleaning your chimney in Calgary. While basic fireplace maintenance like cleaning glass doors can be done by homeowners, chimney cleaning requires specialized equipment, safety training, and the ability to identify structural problems that are common in Calgary's harsh climate.

Professional chimney cleaning is essential for several Calgary-specific reasons. Calgary's extreme temperature swings — especially during chinook events when temperatures can jump 30 degrees in hours — cause rapid expansion and contraction of chimney materials, leading to accelerated deterioration of mortar joints, crown cracking, and liner separation. A professional sweep will identify these issues during cleaning, whereas a homeowner focused on removing creosote or debris might miss critical structural problems. Additionally, Calgary's long heating season (October through April) means chimneys accumulate more creosote and debris than in milder climates, requiring thorough removal to prevent chimney fires.

The cleaning process involves hazardous conditions that require professional expertise. Chimney sweeps use specialized brushes, vacuum systems, and safety equipment to remove creosote buildup, bird nests, and debris while containing the mess. They work from both the roof and fireplace opening, requiring ladder safety skills and fall protection. More importantly, they're trained to recognize dangerous conditions like cracked flue liners, damaged chimney crowns, or blocked flues that could cause carbon monoxide poisoning or house fires. In Calgary, where freeze-thaw cycles accelerate chimney deterioration, this inspection component is just as valuable as the actual cleaning.

For wood-burning fireplaces and stoves, annual professional cleaning is not optional — it's a safety requirement. Creosote is highly flammable and builds up faster in Calgary's cold climate because the temperature differential between the hot flue gases and cold outdoor air causes more condensation. A chimney fire can reach temperatures of 2,000°F and spread to your home's structure. Professional sweeps also ensure your chimney cap and spark arrestor are properly maintained, which is crucial for preventing wildlife entry and reducing fire risk from wind-blown embers.

Even gas fireplaces benefit from professional chimney inspection during cleaning. While gas burns cleaner than wood, the chimney liner can still deteriorate from condensation and Calgary's chinook-induced thermal cycling. A cracked liner in a gas fireplace can allow carbon monoxide to enter your home's walls or living spaces. Professional sweeps check the entire venting system, including the termination cap and any horizontal runs.

Chimney cleaning costs \$200-\$400 in Calgary and should be done annually for wood-burning systems, or every 2-3 years for gas systems depending on usage. This investment is far less than repairing fire damage or dealing with carbon monoxide exposure. Many sweeps also provide WETT inspections if you need documentation for insurance purposes.

The only chimney maintenance homeowners should handle is basic visual inspection — checking for obvious damage to the exterior chimney structure, ensuring the chimney cap is secure, and verifying that tree branches aren't too close to the chimney. Leave the actual cleaning and detailed inspection to certified professionals who have the tools, training, and experience to work safely and identify problems before they become dangerous.

Need help finding a certified chimney sweep? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who understand Calgary's unique climate challenges and follow proper safety protocols for chimney cleaning and inspection.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Quality count construction Ltd.
- Onsite Contracting and Electrical Services
- Calgary Garage Builders Ltd
- Durable Decks

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What should a gas fireplace annual service include in Calgary?

A gas fireplace annual service in Calgary should include a comprehensive inspection of the venting system, gas connections, heat exchanger, and safety controls — critical maintenance given Calgary's 6-month heating season and extreme temperature swings that stress fireplace components.

Annual service becomes essential in Calgary because gas fireplaces here accumulate 150-200+ operating hours during the October-to-April heating season, compared to 50-75 hours in milder climates. The repeated thermal cycling from Calgary's chinook events — where temperatures can swing 30°C in hours — puts additional stress on heat exchangers, venting joints, and gas valve components.

Venting System Inspection is the most critical component. The technician should inspect the exterior vent termination for blockages (ice buildup is common in Calgary winters), check that the vent cap moves freely, and verify proper clearances from windows, doors, and property lines. Inside, they'll inspect the vent pipe connections for separation, corrosion, or damage — chinook temperature swings can cause expansion joints to loosen over time. The coaxial vent pipe should be checked for proper slope and support.

Gas System Safety Check includes testing all gas connections with leak detection solution, verifying proper gas pressure at the appliance (typically 3.5" water column for natural gas), and testing the gas valve operation through its full range. The technician should check that the manual shutoff valve operates smoothly and verify the gas line sizing is adequate for the appliance BTU rating.

Heat Exchanger and Combustion Analysis involves inspecting the heat exchanger for cracks or corrosion — a cracked heat exchanger can leak carbon monoxide into your home and requires immediate unit shutdown. The technician should perform combustion analysis to verify proper air-fuel mixture and check that carbon monoxide levels are within safe limits (typically under 25 ppm).

Safety Controls Testing includes verifying the oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) functions properly, testing the thermocouple or thermopile that proves pilot flame presence, and checking that all safety shutoffs work correctly. The technician should test the remote control operation and battery backup systems if equipped.

Cleaning and Maintenance involves removing dust and debris from the burner assembly, cleaning the glass doors (Calgary's dry climate creates static that attracts dust), inspecting and cleaning the blower assembly, and checking that decorative media (ceramic logs, fire glass) is properly positioned for safe combustion.

ATCO Gas rates of \$3.50-\$5.00 per GJ make regular maintenance cost-effective — a well-maintained gas fireplace operates at 70-85% efficiency, while a neglected unit can drop to 60% efficiency or lower, wasting natural gas and increasing your heating costs.

The service should conclude with a written report documenting any issues found, recommended repairs, and confirmation that the unit is safe to operate. In Calgary's market, annual service typically costs \$150-\$250 and should be scheduled in early fall before heavy heating season use begins.

Carbon monoxide detectors should be tested during the service visit — Alberta Building Code requires CO detectors in homes with fuel-burning appliances, and they're your primary protection against a malfunctioning gas fireplace.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who understand Calgary's unique climate challenges and provide thorough annual maintenance services.

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Q14

How do I know if my gas fireplace heat exchanger is cracked?

A cracked heat exchanger in your gas fireplace is a serious safety hazard that requires immediate professional inspection. While you can't definitively diagnose this yourself, there are several warning signs that indicate you should shut off your fireplace and call a qualified technician right away.

Visual and audible warning signs include white staining or corrosion around the fireplace unit, unusual sounds like popping or banging during operation, and visible rust or deterioration on any metal components you can see. If you notice the flame pattern has changed — burning yellow instead of blue, or flickering irregularly — this could indicate combustion problems related to heat exchanger damage. Water stains or moisture around the fireplace are also red flags, as cracked heat exchangers can allow condensation to escape where it shouldn't.

The most dangerous sign is carbon monoxide presence in your home. Install CO detectors near your fireplace and throughout your home if you haven't already — this is required by the Alberta Building Code for homes with fuel-burning appliances. Symptoms of CO exposure include headaches, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue that improve when you leave the house. If your CO detector alarms, evacuate immediately and call emergency services. Never ignore a CO alarm, even if you think it might be a false alarm.

Calgary's extreme climate makes heat exchanger inspection especially important during our long heating season from October through April. Gas fireplaces here accumulate significantly more operating hours than in milder climates, and the repeated heating and cooling cycles during chinook events put additional thermal stress on metal components. A fireplace that runs regularly during Calgary's -25°C to -35°C cold snaps is working harder than units in most other Canadian cities.

Professional inspection is the only reliable way to determine heat exchanger condition. A qualified gas technician uses specialized tools like combustion analyzers and inspection cameras to check for cracks that aren't visible to homeowners. During Calgary's peak fireplace season, many contractors offer comprehensive safety inspections for \$150-\$250 that include heat exchanger evaluation, gas pressure testing, venting inspection, and carbon monoxide measurement.

If you suspect heat exchanger problems, shut off your fireplace immediately and don't operate it until a professional inspection confirms it's safe. Turn off the gas supply at the fireplace shutoff valve and at your home's main gas meter if you smell gas. A cracked heat exchanger can allow carbon monoxide to enter your living space instead of being safely vented outside — this is potentially fatal and requires immediate attention.

Annual professional maintenance becomes critical after your gas fireplace's first few years of operation. Calgary's heavy winter use means components wear faster than in milder climates. A qualified technician should inspect the heat exchanger, clean the burner assembly, check gas connections, test safety controls, and measure carbon monoxide levels annually. This preventive service typically costs \$150-\$250 but can identify problems before they become dangerous.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician for inspection? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who specialize in gas fireplace safety and repair through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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- Venkor Group Inc

- Greenstone landscaping solutions
- Mike's Restoration Service
- Upper Cut Landscaping LTD

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Q15

Do I need to clean my electric fireplace and how often in Calgary?

Yes, electric fireplaces need regular cleaning to maintain optimal performance and appearance, especially in Calgary where they often run continuously during the 6-month heating season from October through April. Unlike gas or wood fireplaces, electric units are safe and straightforward for homeowners to clean themselves.

Electric fireplaces accumulate dust on internal components that can reduce heating efficiency and create burning odors when the unit operates. The heating elements, internal fan, and air intake vents collect household dust, pet hair, and debris over time. In Calgary's dry winter air, static electricity can cause dust to cling more aggressively to surfaces. When this buildup heats up during operation, it creates that characteristic "burning dust" smell that many homeowners notice when first turning on their electric fireplace each fall.

Clean your electric fireplace every 2-3 months during active use, which typically means 3-4 times per heating season in Calgary. If you run the unit daily during cold snaps, monthly cleaning prevents significant buildup. Homes with pets, smokers, or high dust levels may need more frequent attention. The glass front and flame effect components also benefit from regular cleaning to maintain the realistic fire appearance that makes modern electric fireplaces so appealing.

The cleaning process is simple but requires safety precautions. Always unplug the unit and allow it to cool completely before cleaning. Remove the glass front panel (most units have clips or screws) and clean with glass cleaner or a damp microfiber cloth. Use a soft brush attachment on your vacuum to gently clean the heating elements, fan blades, and internal surfaces. Compressed air works well for blowing dust out of tight spaces. Clean the air intake and exhaust vents on the exterior of the unit. For built-in units, you may need to remove the trim or access panel to reach internal components.

Calgary's extreme temperature swings during chinook events can cause condensation inside electric fireplaces, making regular cleaning even more important. When outdoor temperatures jump from -25°C to +10°C in a matter of hours, the rapid humidity changes can create moisture inside the unit. This moisture combines

with dust to create more stubborn buildup on heating elements and internal surfaces.

Replace the air filter if your electric fireplace has one — typically every 3-6 months depending on use and household dust levels. Some higher-end electric fireplaces include washable filters that can be cleaned with warm soapy water and thoroughly dried before reinstalling.

Signs your electric fireplace needs immediate cleaning include: burning smells when operating, reduced heat output, unusual noises from the internal fan, visible dust accumulation on the glass or flame effects, or error codes related to overheating protection. These symptoms often indicate dust buildup is interfering with proper airflow and heat dissipation.

Unlike gas fireplaces that require annual professional service for safety inspections, electric fireplaces are entirely DIY-maintainable. However, if you're uncomfortable working with electrical appliances or notice any damaged wiring, loose connections, or persistent operational issues, consult a certified electrician. For hardwired electric fireplaces, any electrical repairs require a qualified professional and may need an electrical permit from the City of Calgary.

Need help finding an electrician for electric fireplace repairs? Find certified electrical contractors through the Calgary Construction Network at calgaryconstructionnetwork.com.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Makki Abatement
- Turnbull masonry
- Radon Lab
- Keystone Exteriors

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How much does it cost to replace the blower fan on a Calgary gas fireplace?

Replacing a gas fireplace blower fan in Calgary typically costs \$200-\$500 for the part plus \$150-\$300 for professional installation, bringing the total to \$350-\$800 depending on your fireplace model and the complexity of the replacement.

The blower fan (also called a circulation fan) is the component that pushes heated air from around the firebox into your room, significantly improving heat distribution and efficiency. When it fails, you'll notice reduced heat output, unusual noises, or no air circulation even though the flames are operating normally.

Cost breakdown for Calgary blower fan replacement:

- **Universal aftermarket fans:** \$150-\$250
- **OEM manufacturer-specific fans:** \$250-\$450
- **Labour for installation:** \$150-\$300
- **Service call fee:** \$75-\$125 (often waived if you proceed with repair)

The wide price range depends on your fireplace brand and model. Popular Calgary brands like Napoleon, Regency, and Heat & Glo have readily available parts, while discontinued or imported models may require special ordering. Some high-end linear fireplaces use specialized variable-speed blowers that cost significantly more than standard single-speed units.

Installation complexity varies considerably. In many gas fireplaces, the blower assembly slides out from the bottom or back of the unit with just a few screws and an electrical connection. However, some built-in models require partial disassembly of the fireplace surround or removal of decorative panels to access the blower compartment. If your fireplace is built into a stone or tile surround, accessing the blower may require more extensive work.

Calgary's long heating season makes blower fan replacement particularly worthwhile. During our 6-month heating season from October through April, a functioning blower can increase your fireplace's heat output to the room by 30-50%. At current ATCO Gas rates of \$3.50-\$5.00 per GJ, the improved efficiency often pays for the repair within a single heating season.

Signs your blower needs replacement include: unusual grinding, squealing, or rattling noises; intermittent operation where the fan starts and stops randomly; complete failure where the fan doesn't turn on despite the fireplace operating; or significantly reduced airflow even when the fan is running.

This repair requires a qualified gas appliance technician because it involves working around gas components and ensuring proper electrical connections. While the blower itself is electrically powered, accessing it often requires working near gas valves and controls. A licensed technician will also check that the replacement fan draws the correct amperage and doesn't overload your fireplace's electrical system.

Timing considerations: Blower fan replacement can be done year-round, but service calls are most expensive during peak heating season (December-February) when technicians are busiest. Consider scheduling repairs in shoulder seasons for better availability and potentially lower labour rates.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who service your specific fireplace brand and can provide accurate quotes for your blower fan replacement.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Mr & Mrs Paintastic Inc
- Makki Abatement
- Alpine Exteriors siding and roofing
- True North Overhead Doors

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Q17

What is the cost to repair a gas fireplace that will not light in Calgary?

Gas fireplace repair costs in Calgary typically range from \$200-\$600 for common ignition problems, with most service calls starting at \$150-\$200 for diagnosis plus parts and additional labor.

The most frequent causes of gas fireplaces that won't light include a faulty thermocouple (\$80-\$150 to replace), dirty or damaged pilot assembly (\$120-\$200), failed ignition control module (\$200-\$400), or clogged burner orifices (\$100-\$180 for cleaning and adjustment). If the issue is simply a dead battery in a battery-powered ignition system, that's a \$20-\$40 fix including the service call.

More complex problems can increase costs significantly. A failed gas valve runs \$300-\$500 including labor, while control board replacement ranges from \$400-\$700. If the heat exchanger has developed cracks — a serious safety issue — repair costs jump to \$800-\$1,500, though replacement is often more economical at that point. Carbon monoxide sensors and safety switches typically cost \$150-\$300 to replace.

Calgary's extreme winter conditions contribute to specific fireplace problems. After months of heavy use during our long heating season (October through April), components like thermocouples and pilot assemblies wear out faster than in milder climates. Chinook wind events can also affect chimney draft and cause pilot lights to blow out repeatedly, potentially damaging ignition components over time. Many Calgary homeowners discover ignition problems right at the start of heating season when they first try to light their fireplace after summer.

Annual maintenance prevents most ignition failures and costs \$150-\$250 in Calgary — significantly less than emergency repairs. During a service call, technicians clean the pilot assembly, test the thermocouple, inspect gas connections, and verify proper combustion air flow. Given that Calgary fireplaces see 5-6 months of regular use, this annual service typically pays for itself by preventing one major repair.

Safety considerations are critical with any gas fireplace that won't light. If you smell gas, hear hissing sounds, or suspect a gas leak, shut off the gas supply immediately and call ATCO Gas emergency line at 1-800-511-3447. Never attempt DIY repairs on gas components — all gas appliance work in Alberta must be performed by licensed gas fitters with proper permits and Safety Codes Officer inspection.

Get a proper diagnosis before authorizing expensive repairs. Reputable Calgary fireplace technicians will diagnose the problem first (usually \$150-\$200) and provide a detailed estimate before proceeding. If repair costs exceed 60-70% of a new fireplace's price, replacement often makes more financial sense, especially for units over 15-20 years old.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace repair technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who are licensed, insured, and experienced with Calgary's climate-specific fireplace challenges.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Ardco Construction
- True North Overhead Doors
- Turnbull masonry
- Quality count construction Ltd.

Q18

How do I maintain my wood stove through a Calgary winter?

Proper wood stove maintenance during Calgary's long, harsh winter is essential for safe operation and maximum efficiency. With temperatures regularly hitting -25°C to -35°C and the heating season running from October through April, your wood stove will accumulate more operating hours than stoves in milder climates, making diligent maintenance critical for both safety and performance.

Daily and weekly maintenance tasks keep your stove running efficiently through Calgary's brutal cold snaps. Check ash levels daily during heavy use — when ash builds up to within an inch of the grate, it restricts airflow and reduces burn efficiency. Remove ashes only when completely cold, storing them in a metal container with a tight lid placed at least 10 feet from any combustible materials. Clean the glass door weekly with a specialized wood stove glass cleaner or a damp cloth dipped in cold ash — never use household glass cleaners, which can damage the high-temperature glass. Inspect door gaskets monthly for wear or damage, as a tight seal is crucial for proper combustion and efficiency.

Monthly chimney and flue inspection becomes even more important in Calgary due to chinook winds, which create rapid temperature swings that can affect chimney draft and accelerate creosote buildup. Check the chimney cap and spark arrestor for blockages from snow, ice, or debris. Calgary's freeze-thaw cycles can cause ice dams that block the chimney top, creating dangerous backdrafting conditions. Inspect the exterior chimney for new cracks in the masonry or separation at the roof line — chinook temperature swings of 20-30 degrees in a few hours put tremendous stress on masonry chimneys. From inside, use a flashlight to check the visible portions of the chimney liner for cracks or deterioration.

Proper wood storage and selection is crucial for clean burning during Calgary's extended heating season. Only burn seasoned hardwood with moisture content below 20% — wet or green wood creates excessive creosote, reduces heat output, and can cause dangerous chimney fires. Store wood in a covered area with good airflow, keeping it off the ground to prevent moisture absorption. Popular hardwoods available in the Calgary area include birch, aspen, and oak, though many homeowners also use well-seasoned pine and spruce. Never burn treated lumber, painted wood, or garbage, which release toxic fumes and can damage your stove.

Professional chimney cleaning and inspection should be scheduled annually, typically in late summer before the heating season begins. However, if you're burning your stove heavily through Calgary's long winter, you may need mid-season cleaning, especially if you notice reduced draft, smoke entering the room, or white staining on the

exterior chimney (indicating creosote buildup). A WETT-certified technician should perform this work, as they're trained to identify potential problems specific to Canadian wood-burning installations. The inspection will check for creosote levels, chimney liner condition, proper clearances, and overall system safety.

Carbon monoxide safety requires constant vigilance during Calgary winters when homes are sealed tight against the cold. Test CO detectors monthly and replace batteries annually — this is required by the Alberta Building Code for any home with fuel-burning appliances. Install detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. Never operate your wood stove with a cracked door, damaged gasket, or compromised chimney system, as these conditions can allow deadly CO to enter your living space.

Emergency preparedness is especially important during Calgary's severe winter storms when power outages can last hours or days. Keep a supply of dry kindling and seasoned wood easily accessible, and ensure you have proper fire-starting materials. Know how to operate your stove's dampers and air controls to maintain steady heat output during extended cold periods. Have a plan for ash removal during multi-day burns, and keep your chimney cap clear of snow and ice buildup that could affect draft.

When to call a professional includes any time you notice smoke entering the room, reduced draft, unusual odors, or visible damage to the stove or chimney system. Don't attempt to repair chimney liners, replace gaskets on your own, or modify the venting system — this work requires WETT-certified expertise to ensure safe operation.

Need help finding a WETT-certified wood stove technician for maintenance or repairs? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with qualified professionals through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Durable Decks
- Premium Built Structures
- G.D.K Drywall LTD.
- Turnbull masonry

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How often should a wood-burning chimney be swept in Calgary?

Wood-burning chimneys in Calgary should be swept annually, typically in late summer or early fall before the heating season begins. Given Calgary's long heating season (October through April) and heavy fireplace use during brutal winter cold snaps, annual cleaning is essential for safety and performance.

Why Calgary chimneys need annual attention comes down to usage patterns and climate. When outdoor temperatures regularly hit -25°C to -35°C for weeks at a time, wood-burning fireplaces and stoves see far more operating hours than in milder climates. A Calgary homeowner might burn 3-4 full cords of wood per season compared to 1-2 cords in Vancouver or Toronto. This heavy use accelerates creosote buildup — the black, tar-like substance that forms when wood smoke condenses in the cooler upper sections of the chimney. Creosote is highly flammable and the primary cause of chimney fires.

Calgary's chinook winds create additional chimney challenges that make regular maintenance even more critical. These dramatic temperature swings — from -25°C to $+10^{\circ}\text{C}$ in a matter of hours — cause rapid expansion and contraction of masonry chimneys, accelerating mortar joint deterioration and crown cracking. The pressure changes during chinook events can also reverse natural chimney draft, causing smoke backdrafting into your home. A clean, properly maintained chimney with a wind-directional cap handles these conditions much better than a neglected one.

Professional chimney sweeping costs \$200-\$350 in Calgary and includes cleaning the flue, inspecting the chimney liner and crown, checking the damper operation, and examining the firebox for cracks or damage. The sweep should also inspect your chimney cap and spark arrestor — essential components for preventing downdrafts and keeping birds, squirrels, and debris out of the flue. Many Calgary sweeps offer package deals that include minor repairs like replacing damaged chimney caps or resealing crown cracks.

WETT certification matters for chimney service. While not legally required under the Alberta Building Code, most Alberta home insurance companies require a WETT inspection report for homes with wood-burning appliances. A WETT-certified sweep provides documentation that your chimney meets Canadian safety standards — valuable for insurance compliance and peace of mind. WETT inspections cost \$250-\$400 in Calgary and are typically done every 2-3 years or when buying/selling a home.

Signs you need immediate chimney attention include white staining (efflorescence) on the exterior masonry, rust on the damper or firebox, damaged chimney crown, animals or birds in the chimney, or smoke entering your room instead of going up the flue. Don't wait for your annual cleaning if you notice these issues — Calgary's extreme weather can turn minor chimney problems into major structural damage quickly.

Schedule your annual sweep in August or September before the heating season begins. Calgary chimney sweeps get booked solid once the first cold snap hits in October, and you don't want to discover a blocked flue or damaged liner when you need your fireplace most during a -30°C February cold spell.

Need help finding a WETT-certified chimney sweep? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals through the Calgary Construction Network who understand Calgary's unique climate challenges and provide thorough, reliable chimney maintenance.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
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- Canadian Closet
- WestAim Construction Ltd.
- Bracha Concrete & Coatings Inc.

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Q20

How do I clean the glass on my gas fireplace in Calgary?

You can safely clean gas fireplace glass yourself using the right products and technique, but only when the fireplace is completely cool. This is one of the few fireplace maintenance tasks Calgary homeowners can handle without calling a professional.

Wait for Complete Cooling Never attempt to clean fireplace glass while warm or hot. After running your gas fireplace during Calgary's cold winter months, allow at least 2-3 hours for the glass to reach room temperature. The glass can remain hot long after the flames are extinguished, and cleaning warm glass can cause thermal shock and cracking.

Use Proper Cleaning Products Regular household glass cleaners like Windex are not designed for fireplace glass and can leave streaks or residue that burns onto the surface. Use a specialized fireplace glass cleaner available at Calgary home improvement stores like Home Depot, Lowe's, or local fireplace dealers. Popular brands include Rutland White-Off and Imperial Manufacturing fireplace glass cleaners. These products are formulated to remove

the white film and carbon deposits that accumulate on gas fireplace glass during Calgary's long heating season.

Cleaning Technique Remove the glass doors if possible (consult your owner's manual for the specific procedure). If removal isn't practical, clean in place with the gas shut off at the control valve. Use a soft cloth or paper towels — never abrasive materials that can scratch the tempered glass. Spray the cleaner and let it sit for the recommended time to dissolve deposits, then wipe clean with circular motions. For stubborn buildup, a plastic scraper can help remove thick deposits without scratching.

Calgary-Specific Considerations Calgary's long heating season from October through April means gas fireplaces accumulate more glass deposits than in milder climates. The white film you see is normal mineral deposits from the combustion process, not a sign of malfunction. Clean your fireplace glass monthly during heavy use periods to maintain the best flame visibility and prevent buildup from becoming difficult to remove.

When to Call a Professional If you notice cracks, chips, or permanent etching in the glass, contact a fireplace technician immediately. Damaged glass compromises the sealed combustion system and creates a safety hazard. Also, if the glass continues to fog quickly after cleaning, this may indicate a problem with the gas mixture or venting that requires professional diagnosis during your annual fireplace service.

Annual Maintenance Reminder While glass cleaning is a DIY task, your gas fireplace needs professional annual service after Calgary's heavy winter use. A certified technician will inspect the heat exchanger, clean the burner, check gas connections, and ensure proper venting — critical safety maintenance that homeowners cannot perform themselves.

Need help finding a fireplace professional for annual service? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local certified technicians through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Calgary Custom Concepts
- Venkor Group Inc
- Upper Cut Landscaping LTD
- Royland Stucco

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Why is my Calgary gas fireplace producing soot on the glass?

Soot buildup on your gas fireplace glass indicates incomplete combustion, which means your fireplace isn't burning the gas fuel efficiently. This creates carbon particles that deposit on the glass as black, powdery residue and signals that your fireplace needs professional attention to restore proper operation.

The most common cause is **restricted airflow to the burner system**. Gas fireplaces require precise air-to-fuel ratios to achieve complete combustion. When the primary air intake becomes blocked with dust, pet hair, or debris, the flame burns fuel-rich and produces soot. In Calgary homes, this problem accelerates during winter months when furnaces and fireplaces run constantly, circulating more household dust and debris. Check the area around your fireplace's air intake vents (usually located at the bottom of the unit) and gently vacuum away any visible buildup.

Dirty or misaligned burner components also cause sooting. The burner ports where gas exits can become clogged with dust or spider webs, creating uneven flame patterns that don't burn cleanly. The ceramic logs or decorative media may have shifted position, disrupting the designed airflow pattern across the burner. Even small changes in log placement can significantly affect combustion efficiency. Additionally, a failing gas valve may not be delivering consistent gas pressure, causing the flame to burn irregularly.

Calgary's extreme temperature swings during chinook events can affect gas fireplace operation. Rapid barometric pressure changes can temporarily disrupt the natural draft in direct-vent fireplaces, leading to brief periods of incomplete combustion. However, persistent sooting indicates a mechanical problem rather than weather-related issues.

Immediate steps you can take: Turn off the fireplace and let it cool completely. Remove the glass doors (following your owner's manual instructions) and clean them with appropriate fireplace glass cleaner—never use household glass cleaners, which can leave residues that cause more sooting. Visually inspect the burner area for obvious debris or shifted logs, but don't attempt to adjust gas components yourself.

This requires professional service because sooting often indicates problems with gas pressure, air intake adjustment, or burner alignment that require specialized tools and gas fitting expertise. A qualified technician will measure gas pressure, clean the burner system, check the venting for obstructions, and ensure proper combustion air supply. In Calgary's market, expect to pay \$150-\$250 for this type of diagnostic service and cleaning.

Don't ignore persistent sooting—incomplete combustion reduces your fireplace's efficiency and can produce carbon monoxide. Ensure your home's CO detectors are working and consider having your fireplace serviced annually after Calgary's long heating season to prevent these issues.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who service gas fireplaces throughout the Calgary area.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Venkor Group Inc
- Radon Lab
- Calgary Garage Builders Ltd
- PLATINUM Pool & Spa Services Ltd

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How much does a thermocouple replacement cost for a Calgary gas fireplace?

A thermocouple replacement for a Calgary gas fireplace typically costs \$150-\$300 including parts and labor. Most service calls run \$200-\$250 total when performed by a licensed gas fitter, which is required for any gas appliance repair work in Alberta.

The thermocouple itself is an inexpensive part — usually \$20-\$50 — but the labor and service call fee make up the majority of the cost. This safety device monitors the pilot light flame and automatically shuts off gas flow if the pilot goes out, preventing dangerous gas accumulation. When thermocouples fail, the pilot light won't stay lit or the main burner won't ignite.

Calgary's extreme winter conditions put extra stress on fireplace thermocouples. During the city's long heating season from October through April, gas fireplaces accumulate significantly more operating hours than in milder climates. The repeated heating and cooling cycles, combined with Calgary's chinook temperature swings that can change 30 degrees in hours, accelerate thermocouple wear. Most thermocouples in heavily-used Calgary fireplaces need replacement every 5-8 years.

Gas appliance repair in Alberta must be performed by a licensed gas fitter — this is not a DIY project. The work requires a gas permit from the City of Calgary (typically \$100-\$150) and inspection by a Safety Codes Officer to ensure proper installation and safety. Attempting DIY thermocouple replacement violates Alberta regulations and creates serious safety risks including gas leaks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Signs your thermocouple needs replacement include: pilot light that won't stay lit after releasing the control knob, main burner that ignites briefly then shuts off, or intermittent fireplace operation where it works sometimes but not others. These symptoms can also indicate other issues like a dirty pilot assembly or gas valve problems, so professional diagnosis is important.

During peak heating season (November through February), service calls may cost slightly more due to high demand, and scheduling can take 3-5 days. Plan thermocouple replacement during shoulder seasons if possible. Many Calgary homeowners bundle thermocouple replacement with their annual fireplace service (\$150-\$250) to save on the service call fee.

If your gas fireplace is over 15 years old and experiencing multiple component failures, consider whether repair costs justify upgrading to a new high-efficiency unit. Modern gas fireplaces operate at 70-85% efficiency compared to 50-60% for older models, providing better heat output at lower ATCO Gas costs during Calgary's expensive winter heating months.

Need help finding a licensed gas fitter for thermocouple replacement? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local fireplace service professionals through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Ardco Construction
- Jk Stucco
- Keystone Exteriors
- Dealtwith.

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Why does my gas fireplace pilot light keep going out during Calgary winters?

Your gas fireplace pilot light going out during Calgary winters is most likely caused by chinook winds creating pressure changes that disrupt the pilot flame, or by a dirty/faulty thermocouple that's failing to keep the gas valve open in cold conditions.

The primary culprit in Calgary is our unique chinook weather pattern. When warm Pacific air masses sweep down the Rockies, they create rapid barometric pressure changes that can reverse or disrupt normal chimney draft. This sudden pressure shift can blow out pilot lights, especially in direct-vent fireplaces that rely on balanced air pressure between the intake and exhaust. During a chinook event, you might notice the pilot going out when outdoor temperatures swing from -25°C to +10°C within hours — this dramatic pressure change is hard on fireplace venting systems.

Cold weather also affects pilot light components directly. The thermocouple — a safety device that senses pilot flame heat and keeps the gas valve open — can become sluggish or fail when exposed to Calgary's extreme cold. If your fireplace is installed on an exterior wall or in a basement where temperatures fluctuate, the thermocouple may not generate enough voltage to hold the gas valve open reliably. Additionally, moisture from condensation can freeze in gas lines or vent pipes during our -30°C cold snaps, temporarily blocking proper gas flow or venting.

Dirty or corroded pilot assembly components are another common cause, especially given Calgary's long heating season from October through April. After months of operation, the pilot orifice can become clogged with dust or debris, creating an unstable flame that's easily extinguished. The thermocouple tip may be coated with soot or corrosion, preventing it from properly sensing the pilot flame temperature.

Draft issues specific to Calgary homes can also cause pilot outages. Many Calgary homes built in the 1970s-1990s have masonry chimneys that weren't designed for modern high-efficiency gas appliances. Poor chimney draft, especially during temperature inversions common in winter, can cause downdrafts that blow out pilots. Homes in windy areas like the northwest communities (Arbour Lake, Hamptons) or elevated areas (Signal Hill, Aspen Woods) are particularly susceptible to wind-related draft problems.

Simple troubleshooting steps include checking that the pilot flame is blue and steady (yellow or flickering flames indicate problems), ensuring the thermocouple tip is positioned properly in the pilot flame, and verifying that the fireplace glass doors are properly sealed. Clean the pilot assembly area of dust and debris, and check that exterior vents aren't blocked by snow or ice buildup.

When to call a professional: If the pilot continues going out after basic cleaning, or if you smell gas, shut off the fireplace and call a licensed gas fitter immediately. The thermocouple may need replacement (\$150-\$250), the pilot assembly might need cleaning or adjustment, or there could be a gas pressure issue requiring professional diagnosis. Given Calgary's heavy fireplace use during our long winters, annual professional maintenance is essential — a qualified technician can clean the pilot assembly, test the thermocouple, check gas pressure, and ensure proper venting before problems occur.

Never attempt to repair gas components yourself — gas work in Alberta requires a licensed gas fitter and gas permit. A malfunctioning pilot light system can lead to gas leaks or carbon monoxide issues, which are serious safety hazards during Calgary's heating season when homes are sealed tight against the cold.

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- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Greenstone landscaping solutions
- Calgary Custom Concepts
- BOND CONTRACTING & CONSTRUCTION INC
- True North Overhead Doors

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Why does my Calgary gas fireplace smell when I first turn it on in fall?

A slight smell when first firing up your gas fireplace after months of sitting idle is completely normal in Calgary, but it's important to distinguish between harmless dust burn-off and potentially dangerous gas odors.

The most common cause is **dust and debris burning off the fireplace components** after sitting unused through Calgary's summer months. During the 5-6 months your fireplace sits idle from May through September, dust accumulates on the burner, heat exchanger, glass, and internal components. When you fire it up for the first time in October, this dust burns off and creates a temporary smell that should dissipate within 15-30 minutes of operation. This is similar to the smell from baseboard heaters or furnaces when they first kick on for the heating season.

Manufacturing oils and protective coatings can also cause temporary odors, especially if your fireplace is relatively new or hasn't been used heavily. Some gas fireplace manufacturers apply protective oils to metal components that burn off during initial use. Even if you used the fireplace last winter, these coatings can continue to cure and create minor odors for the first few uses of each season.

However, you need to be alert for **dangerous gas smells** that indicate a potential leak. Natural gas from ATCO Gas has mercaptan added to give it a distinctive "rotten egg" smell. If you detect this sulfur-like odor, turn off the fireplace immediately, don't operate any electrical switches, ventilate the area, and call ATCO Gas emergency line at 1-800-511-3447. Never ignore a gas smell or assume it will go away on its own.

Calgary's extreme temperature swings, particularly chinook events, can affect gas appliances by causing expansion and contraction of gas lines and fittings. After a summer of thermal cycling, connections may have loosened slightly. This is why it's crucial to have your gas fireplace serviced annually before the heating season begins.

Before using your fireplace this fall, open the damper if you have one, ensure the glass doors are clean, and run the fireplace for 15-20 minutes with good ventilation to burn off any accumulated dust. If smells persist beyond 30 minutes, or if you detect any gas odor, shut down the unit and call a qualified gas technician. Given Calgary's long heating season from October through April, it's worth having annual maintenance done in September to catch any issues before you need reliable heat during those -30°C cold snaps.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician for annual service? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals who understand Calgary's unique climate challenges and can ensure your fireplace is ready for another long Alberta winter.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Ardco Construction
- True North Overhead Doors
- Mike's Restoration Service
- WestAim Construction Ltd.

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Can I replace the ceramic logs in my gas fireplace myself in Calgary?

Yes, you can safely replace ceramic logs in your gas fireplace yourself — this is one of the few fireplace maintenance tasks that doesn't require a professional in Calgary. Replacing decorative media like ceramic logs, lava rock, or fire glass is considered routine homeowner maintenance, not gas appliance repair.

Before starting, ensure your fireplace is completely cool and the gas is turned off at the control valve.

Remove the old ceramic logs carefully, noting their exact placement — most gas fireplaces have a specific log arrangement that ensures proper flame pattern and combustion. Take a photo before removal to reference the correct positioning. Clean any debris from the burner ports using a soft brush or compressed air, being careful not to damage the delicate orifice openings.

When purchasing replacement logs, stick with the manufacturer's recommended ceramic log set for your specific fireplace model. Generic logs may not fit properly or could interfere with the burner's flame pattern, affecting both appearance and safe operation. The log placement is engineered to direct flames away from the glass and create the realistic fire appearance. In Calgary, fireplace specialty stores and home improvement centers carry replacement log sets, typically ranging from \$150-\$400 depending on your fireplace size and log style.

Position the new logs exactly as shown in your owner's manual or the photo you took during removal. The primary log (usually the largest) sits directly over the main burner, while secondary logs are arranged to create realistic flame patterns without blocking gas flow. Never place logs directly on burner ports or in positions that could redirect flames toward the glass doors or fireplace walls.

After installation, test the fireplace operation before the heating season begins. Turn the gas back on, ignite the fireplace, and observe the flame pattern for several minutes. Flames should be predominantly blue at the base with yellow tips, and should not impinge directly on the logs or glass. If you notice unusual flame patterns, sooting on the glass, or flames that seem too high or irregular, turn off the fireplace and consult a professional — this could indicate improper log placement or a burner issue that needs attention.

While you're handling this maintenance, it's a good time to clean the glass doors and inspect the overall fireplace condition. Use only fireplace glass cleaner (never household glass cleaners, which can leave residue that etches when heated). Check that the glass doors seal properly and that gaskets aren't cracked or deteriorated. With Calgary's long heating season running October through April, your fireplace will see heavy use, making proper log placement and clean glass essential for both safety and appearance.

Need help finding a fireplace professional for more complex maintenance or repairs? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local contractors through the Calgary Construction Network.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- Greenstone landscaping solutions
- Radon Lab
- Calgary Custom Concepts
- Upper Cut Landscaping LTD

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When should I replace my gas fireplace logs or media in Calgary?

Gas fireplace logs and decorative media should be replaced when they show visible damage, discoloration, or deterioration — typically every 3-5 years with regular use, though Calgary's long heating season may accelerate wear.

Gas fireplace logs and media aren't just decorative elements — they're engineered components that affect flame pattern, heat distribution, and combustion efficiency. In Calgary, where fireplaces often run 4-6 months annually during our extended heating season, these components experience more thermal cycling than fireplaces in milder climates.

Ceramic logs are the most durable option and can last 5-7 years with proper care. Look for replacement when you notice cracking, chipping, or white chalky deposits that won't clean off. These deposits indicate the ceramic is breaking down from repeated heating and cooling cycles. Damaged logs can create uneven flame patterns and reduce heating efficiency.

Refractory logs (concrete-based) typically need replacement every 3-5 years. They're more affordable than ceramic but less durable. Replace when they develop deep cracks, crumbling edges, or significant discoloration. Broken refractory logs can create debris that clogs burner ports.

Fire glass and decorative stones should be replaced when they become cloudy, discolored, or coated with white residue that cleaning won't remove. High-quality tempered fire glass can last 4-6 years, while cheaper alternatives may need replacement every 2-3 years. Never use regular glass or non-fireplace stones — they can crack or

explode when heated.

Replacement timing in Calgary should consider our climate factors. The combination of heavy winter use and chinook temperature swings creates additional thermal stress on fireplace components. If your logs or media look questionable at the start of heating season in October, replace them then rather than mid-winter when demand is highest and selection may be limited.

Signs requiring immediate replacement include any cracked or broken pieces that could fall onto the burner, severe discoloration that affects flame appearance, or debris accumulation around the burner ports. Using damaged logs can create safety hazards and reduce your fireplace's efficiency during Calgary's coldest months when you need reliable supplemental heat.

You can replace decorative media yourself — it's one of the few fireplace maintenance tasks homeowners can safely handle. However, ensure you're using manufacturer-approved replacement parts sized correctly for your specific fireplace model. When in doubt, consult your fireplace's manual or have your annual service technician recommend appropriate replacements during your fall maintenance appointment.

Need help finding a fireplace professional for maintenance or media replacement? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local contractors who service your fireplace brand and model.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- K&S CHIMNEY SERVICES
- WestAim Construction Ltd.
- Ardco Construction
- Durable Decks
- Venkor Group Inc

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Q27

Why is my Calgary gas fireplace making a clicking noise?

A clicking noise from your Calgary gas fireplace is usually caused by metal components expanding and contracting as they heat up and cool down, which is completely normal. However, persistent clicking during operation or clicking when the fireplace is off can indicate issues that need attention.

Normal thermal expansion clicking occurs when your fireplace first starts up and the metal heat exchanger, firebox walls, and venting components expand as they warm from room temperature to operating temperature (often 200-400°F). You'll hear a series of ticking or clicking sounds for the first 10-15 minutes of operation, then again as the unit cools down after you turn it off. This is especially noticeable in Calgary during winter when the temperature differential is extreme — your fireplace components might start at -20°C room temperature and rapidly heat to operating temperature.

Gas valve clicking is another common source of noise. The gas valve contains a solenoid that clicks when it opens and closes to control gas flow. You'll hear a distinct click when you first turn on the fireplace (gas valve opening) and another click when you turn it off (gas valve closing). Some electronic ignition systems also produce clicking sounds as they cycle the igniter to light the pilot or main burner.

Problematic clicking that requires professional attention includes: continuous clicking during operation (may indicate a failing gas valve or control board), clicking when the fireplace is completely off (possible gas valve leak or electrical issue), or clicking accompanied by the smell of gas (potential gas leak requiring immediate shutdown and professional service). Calgary's chinook winds can also affect gas appliance operation — rapid pressure changes during chinook events sometimes cause gas valves to behave erratically.

Check these simple items first: ensure your fireplace glass doors are properly seated (loose glass can vibrate and click), verify that decorative media like fire glass or ceramic logs haven't shifted against the burner or firebox walls, and confirm that the blower fan (if equipped) isn't hitting any obstructions. Also check that your wall switch or remote control batteries aren't low, as weak signals can cause the gas valve to cycle repeatedly.

When to call a professional: If clicking is accompanied by gas odor, if the fireplace won't light or stay lit, if clicking occurs when the unit is off, or if you notice any changes in flame pattern or color. Gas appliance repair requires a licensed gas fitter in Alberta, and any suspected gas leak should be addressed immediately by shutting off the gas supply and calling ATCO Gas emergency line.

Calgary-specific maintenance note: Given our long heating season and heavy fireplace use from October through April, annual professional service helps prevent control component failures that often manifest as unusual clicking or cycling behavior.

Need help finding a qualified gas fireplace technician? Calgary Fireplaces can match you with local professionals for diagnostic service and repair.

Looking for experienced contractors? The Calgary Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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- Mike's Restoration Service
- Makki Abatement
- Calgary Custom Concepts

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