

**TITLE:** CHIMNEY  
**VERSION:** V3.0  
**DATE PUBLISHED:** 06/20/23

**DEFINITION:** A vertical or near vertical passageway connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance.

**PURPOSE:** To safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

**COMMON COMPONENTS:** Visible flue; Firebox; Brick; Concrete; Masonry block; Wood Framing; Clay; Natural Stone

**LOCATION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unit	Any enclosed, habitable space where a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance is located
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inside	Any enclosed, shared space where a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance is located
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outside	Any exterior, visually accessible component of a gas fireplace, wood-burning fireplace, or wood-burning appliance

**MORE INFORMATION:**

- Ventilation of combustion gases from fuel-burning appliances should be evaluated under the respective item's standard, including, but not limited to:
  - Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
  - Water Heater
- A ventless fireplace should not be evaluated under this standard.

**DEFICIENCY 1:** A visually accessible chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete or damaged such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

**LOCATION:** ☒ Unit ☒ Inside ☒ Outside

**DEFICIENCY 2:** Chimney exhibits signs of structural failure.

**LOCATION:** ☒ Outside

**DEFICIENCY I — UNIT:** A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

**DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:** A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

OR

A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION:** Life-Threatening The Life-Threatening category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a high risk of death to the resident.

**CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**HCV PASS / FAIL:** Fail

**HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**INSPECTION PROCESS:**

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
  - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox to determine if it is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present).
  - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:** - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed; not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

**DEFICIENCY I — INSIDE:** A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

**DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:** A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

OR

A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

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  - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:** - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed; not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

**DEFICIENCY I — OUTSIDE:** A VISUALLY ACCESSIBLE CHIMNEY, FLUE, OR FIREBOX CONNECTED TO A FIREPLACE OR WOOD-BURNING APPLIANCE IS INCOMPLETE OR DAMAGED SUCH THAT IT MAY NOT SAFELY CONTAIN FIRE AND CONVEY SMOKE AND COMBUSTION GASES TO THE EXTERIOR.

**DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:** A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

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A visually accessible (i.e., can be reasonably accessed and observed) chimney, flue, or firebox connected to a fireplace or wood-burning appliance is damaged (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality) such that it may not safely contain fire and convey smoke and combustion gases to the exterior.

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**CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**HCV PASS / FAIL:** Fail

**HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**INSPECTION PROCESS:**

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
  - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox to determine if it is incomplete (i.e., evidence of a previously installed component that is now not present).
  - Visually inspect each chimney, flue, and firebox for damage (i.e., visibly defective; impacts functionality).
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:**
- For the purpose of this inspection, the ash cleanout should be considered as part of the firebox and therefore evaluated under this deficiency.
  - For the purpose of this inspection, the inspector should not go on the roof to evaluate the chimney.
  - If a fireplace is intentionally decommissioned (e.g., sealed, not positioned for use), then do not evaluate it under this deficiency.

**DEFICIENCY 2 — OUTSIDE: CHIMNEY EXHIBITS SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL FAILURE.**

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**DEFICIENCY CRITERIA:** The chimney exhibits signs of structural failure such that the integrity of the chimney is jeopardized.

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**CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

**HCV PASS / FAIL:** Fail

**HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME:** 24 hours

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**INSPECTION PROCESS:**

- OBSERVATION:**
- Identify all fireplaces and wood-burning appliances.
  - Visually inspect each chimney to determine if it exhibits any sign of structural failure.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - None
- MORE INFORMATION:**
- Examples of chimney structural failure include, but are not limited to:
    - Misaligned
    - Detached
    - Leaning away from the building
    - Collapsed
    - Imminent danger of collapse
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