

TITLE: CHIMNEY
VERSION: V3.0
DATE PUBLISHED: 08/11/23

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.
 - Examples of conditions that should be evaluated under this deficiency include, but are not limited to:
 - Holes.
 - Bricks that are damaged, missing, or cracked such that smoke or combustion gases may not vent as intended.
 - Failed lining (e.g., creosote leaching through brick).

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.

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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.
 - Examples of conditions that should be evaluated under this deficiency include, but are not limited to:
 - Holes.
 - Bricks that are damaged, missing, or cracked such that smoke or combustion gases may not vent as intended.
 - Failed lining (e.g., creosote leaching through brick).

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.

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CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 24 hours

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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.
 - Examples of conditions that should be evaluated under this deficiency include, but are not limited to:
 - Holes.
 - Bricks that are damaged, missing, or cracked such that smoke or combustion gases may not vent as intended.
 - Failed lining (e.g., creosote leaching through brick).

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

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

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 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