

FIREPLACE SAFETY

AIR PROGRAM 502-624-8263

With winter temperatures on the way, and the Holiday season at hand, fireplaces are being enjoyed. Holiday songs and cards all depict the fireplace as the center of the home, a gathering place for heat and comfort...a place to connect and create lasting memories. But we need to make sure we are keeping the basics in mind to prevent indoor air pollution, to protect our home, and family:

- * When starting your fireplace, only use dry newspaper, dry kindling or organic fire starters. Never use cardboard or colorful ink junk mail, magazines, boxes or wrapping paper. Those items have the opportunity to release noxious, corrosive or carcinogenic gasses when burnt, which are dangerous to indoor air quality.
- * Never burn wet wood! Only use dry or seasoned wood in your fireplace. Burning wet wood creates more smoke which is harmful to your indoor air quality and chimney.
- * Never add plastic to a fire. Plastics release a cocktail of chemicals into your home that can be very dangerous to your home, family and environment.
- * Christmas trees after the holiday...This goes back to the "don't burn wet wood" statement. It will burn quick and create smoke fast as the tree is still green. That smoke goes right into your home. In fact, if you have a tree you would like to get rid of, check out the QRP's article in this newsletter on how to dispose of your trees with them!
- * Treated and coated wood (or pallets) that are remnant of household projects like decks, sheds or the like are NOT to be burnt in a fireplace. All of the chemicals used to protect and treat that wood, create toxic fumes which are being sent straight into your home when burned.
- * And lastly, never burn your trash in the fireplace or start with an accelerant (I.E.: gasoline, starting fluid or kerosene). When burned, trash releases numerous chemicals expected of causing cancer.
- * For more information, access the KY Division for Air Quality's Open Burning website at: <https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Air/Pages/Open-Burning.aspx>
- * Check out the EPA's Burn Wise Program for wood burning appliances and safety at: <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise/burn-wise-health-and-safety-awareness-kit>

