

# HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY



**NACS CHIMNEY SWEEPS HELP TO PROTECT THE CONSUMER BY PREVENTING CHIMNEY FIRES**



**CHIMNEY SWEEPING IS ESSENTIAL FOR FIRE SAFETY**

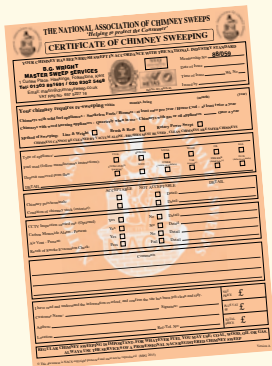


**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS**

# The UK's No.1 Chimney Sweep Association

## The National Association of Chimney Sweeps Will Help To Heat Your Home Safely

Chimney Sweeps help in the prevention of chimney fires and reduce the risk of dangerous fume emissions from blocked heating appliances, flue-ways and chimneys. Clean chimneys are safer and help your environment by assisting the complete combustion of the fuel, which in turn reduces smoke and emissions.



- **All NACS Chimney Sweeps are fully insured**
- **NACS Chimney Sweeps work to the NACS Code of Practice**
- **A NACS Certificate of Chimney Sweeping is issued on completion of work**
- **NACS Chimney Sweeps are trained and qualified**



### Using a NACS Chimney Sweep will:

Help to eliminate the build-up of soot from coal, wood, oil, and gas fired appliances, and maintain your chimney safely. They will also clear obstructions such as birds and animal nests, leaves and building debris, even cobwebs.

NACS Chimney Sweeps provide valuable advice on operating your appliance safely and efficiently and on any remedial work that may be necessary.

### Consult your NACS Chimney Sweep for other chimney related services:

Smoke Testing, flue surveys, CCTV inspections, chimney pots, cowls, vermin guards and re-lining of chimneys.

### Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisonings

Blocked chimneys can cause deadly fumes to enter the dwellings area, i.e. carbon monoxide fumes. For your own protection, we advise that a carbon monoxide detector should be installed.

# How Safe Is Your Chimney?

Many older designs of chimneys in the UK were originally constructed of masonry - brick built flues using materials such as sand and lime. It is common for the joints between bricks to deteriorate and perish resulting in holes between flue walls. This can cause smoke and dangerous fumes to leak into adjoining flues and dwelling areas. This can result in fatalities caused by carbon monoxide poisonings and chimney fires.



In addition a HETAS Engineer (solid fuel) or Gas Safe Register installer (gas)/OFTEC Technician (oil) can also carry out the smoke testing of flues. Access should be provided to allow the inspection of all chimney walls that are being tested including the roof space and any flues from adjoining properties.

## Re-Lining of Chimneys

There are various types and methods of re-lining flues that have been condemned as dangerous and defective. One method that is fairly easy and quick to install is a stainless steel flexible liner which is inserted down into an existing chimney. Other methods include a cast in-situ system where perlite and concrete is pumped into a chimney.



**Chimneys must be inspected, maintained and cleaned regularly**

## Smoke Testing of Chimneys

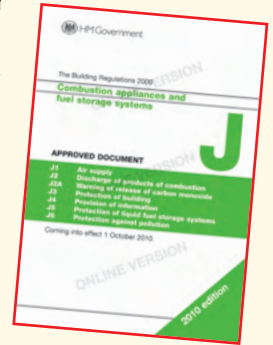
For Solid Fuel, Gas and Oil flues to ensure integrity and safety of your flue, it is recommended a qualified NACS Chimney Sweep should carry out a test, in accordance with current Building Regulations and appropriate European & British Standards, upon completion of work they will issue a NACS Smoke Test Certificate.



# Chimney & Appliance Checklist

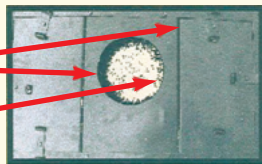
- ✓ **Chimney Cleaned**
- ✓ **Smoke Tested**
- ✓ **Certificates Received**
- ✓ **Access for Cleaning**
- ✓ **Adequate Ventilation**
- ✓ **Suitable Flue Termination**
- ✓ **Chimney Data Plate**
- ✓ **Operating Instructions**

NACS recommends that only qualified and registered installers are used to carry out installations of your heating appliances. Please refer to HETAS for solid fuel, Gas Safe for gas, or OFTEC for oil accordingly.



Suitable access must be provided for the cleaning & inspection of flues to comply with the current building regulations Approved Document J (ADJ) and Scottish Building Regulations (SBR). Chimney cleaning can be carried out via soot doors and cleaning access plates on flue pipes. Some flues can be cleaned through the appliance or using the following methods as specified below:

REGISTER/CLOSURE  
PLATE WITH TWO  
SOOT DOOR  
CLEANING  
HATCHES WITH  
CENTRE OPENING  
FOR FLUE PIPE

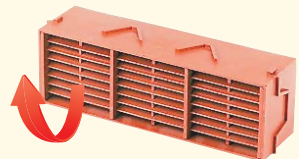
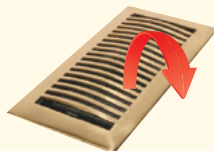


(ideally made of rust protected  
steel plate minimum of 1.5mm)

Some appliances have a removable  
throat plate/ baffle plate which must  
be cleaned monthly. Always follow  
the manufacturers guidelines.



**WARNING! NEVER BLOCK  
AIR VENTS**



Some heating appliances require an air vent or brick to ensure the safety and efficiency of your heating appliance, and to comply with ADJ and SBR.

# Chimney Pots, Cowls & Flue Terminals

**THE CORRECT FLUE TERMINATION** is essential to ensure that your heating appliance (Solid Fuel / Gas or Oil) is able to work properly and safely. All appliances need to be able to 'breathe' in and out. There are numerous types and designs of chimney pots and cowls that can be fitted. Some are made of terracotta whilst other cowls may be manufactured from stainless steel or galvanised metallic designs.



**WARNING** - the chimney termination covers below are only designed for **disused** flues. They are not approved for working gas, oil or solid fuel chimneys.



Below are some examples of Pots, Cowls & Terminals for Gas, Oil, & Solid Fuel Chimneys



**SAFETY NOTE** - the top of the chimney (pot, cowl, or terminal) must be compatible with your heating appliance. Always check with your appliance manufacturers instructions, your installer, or consult your NACS Chimney Sweep who will assist and may offer a supply and fitting service.

For Expert Advice Consult Your NACS Chimney Sweep

# Fuel Advice & Correct Fuel Storage

**NACS recommends that chimneys using the following fuels are inspected, cleaned, and checked prior to use:**

**Smokeless Fuels:** At least once a year

**Wood:** Quarterly when in use

**Oil:** At least once a year

**Gas:** At least once a year

**Biomass:** At least once a year



Using dry wood in your open fire or wood burning stove is absolutely vital to avoid your chimney or flue becoming coated with soot or tar and ultimately catching fire.

Your home insurance may be invalid if you do not burn recommended fuel which must be dry, or you do not correctly maintain your chimney and appliance.

**You must not burn old fence panels or wooden pallets.**

## Keep fuel dry

Help the environment by burning dry wood. Make sure your logs are dried to below 20% moisture content for a clean burn and maximum heat output. If drying your own logs, make sure they are stored under cover with plenty of airflow, ideally in a log store (see picture), but they will need 18-36 months depending on the type of wood.

When using poor fuels, such as wet wood, more smoke is released into the air, which could damage your health and the health of those around you.



To find out more about the steps you can take to burn better, visit: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/burnbetter>

The NACS supports Defra's burn better campaign.

**YOUR NACS CHIMNEY SWEEP WILL ADVISE YOU ON WHAT TO BURN**

# NACS Qualified Chimney Sweeps

## Why Use A NACS Chimney Sweep?

- All NACS Members are fully trained, qualified and insured
- Many NACS members also offer servicing and fitting of spare parts for stoves and fireplaces
- Many NACS Members offer specialised services such as CCTV Inspections & Surveys
- All NACS Members work to the NACS Code of Practice
- All NACS Members issue a NACS Standard Certificate of Chimney Sweeping for every flue swept
- Many NACS Members also carry out Smoke Testing of flues



**Is your fire safety alarm and carbon monoxide detector working correctly and up to date?**

The National Association of Chimney Sweeps is the UK's No. 1 Trade Association for Professional Chimney Sweeps

# THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIMNEY SWEEPS



## PROTECTING THE CONSUMER

Your local NACS Chimney Sweep is:



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