

Other viable heating options

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Last month, we talked about wood-burning fireplaces and stoves. This is a wonderful option for most homes, but what if your home isn't able to adequately accommodate a wood-burning appliance? At CAFD, we have the right unit for your home's needs. Consider a gas fireplace or gas stove, or, if that option doesn't work, how about an electric fireplace?

Gas stoves and fireplaces are designed to look like wood-burning appliances. They have the beauty and elegance of a wood-burning unit or stove without the added effort of hauling and stacking wood; not to mention the mess wood fires can create. With the flick of a switch, you have the warmth, beauty and feel of a

"real" fire.

Gas fireplaces are available in free-standing units that can be top-vented, direct-vented or vent-free depending on your home's needs. If you have an existing masonry or metal chimney, you can install a top-vented gas fireplace or stove. Also, gas fireplaces come in a wide variety of designs and finishes that will easily fit into your home's decor.

Direct-vented fireplaces and stoves offer one very convenient option: no chimney is required. This means greater flexibility in the placement of your unit. Direct venting simply requires a pipe through the wall to the outside. This pipe is actually one pipe inside of the other. The outer pipe takes in the outside air while the inner pipe returns the flue gases back to the outside. This system is very efficient and safe because no inside air is used

during combustion.

Vent-free stoves and fireplaces require no chimney or vent. The term "zero clearance" refers to vent-free units that sit right up against a wall. As an added safety measure, vent-free products are fitted with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) which shuts the unit off should the oxygen level in the room drop to 18.5 percent, (normal household air contains 21 percent oxygen). Vent-free units operate at up to 99 percent efficiency.

One of the major attractions of a gas fireplace or stove are the optional accessories available. These include fans, thermostats, remote controls, and log sets. These optional items add to the beauty and ease of owning a gas fireplace or stove.

For homeowners who cannot install either a wood-burning or gas appliance, the elec-

tric fireplace is the answer. It becomes a wonderful focal point to a room. Electric fireplaces can be installed anywhere where there is a plug and a wall. These units do not require chimneys, venting, additional wiring, clearance or approval. They are completely self-contained, cool to the touch and very safe to use. Plus they look like a real wood fireplace and even include adjustable flame height and intensity. Electric fireplaces are surprisingly cost-effective too. They usually run at about 7 cents an hour when both heat and flame are in operation.

Come see for yourself at Connecticut Appliance and Fireplace Distributors! Our experienced and professional sales staff would be happy to help you choose the fireplace or stove that is just right for your home's needs.

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