

Improve Your Fireplace Efficiency

The smell of burning wood, the warmth of a fire in the hearth and the calming flames fill the senses and a home with the best of winter. Unfortunately, a wood fire in a fireplace can be a huge energy waster.

Most traditional fireplaces increase drafts in a house, as they pull the room air through the fireplace opening and send it up the chimney. Fireplaces can actually remove more heat from a house than they produce!

You can still keep the atmosphere of a wood-stoked fire without sending your home's comfortable, warm air up the chimney by altering your wood-burning fireplace a bit.

Here are some tips:



- Close the fireplace damper when you are not burning wood. This will cut down on the loss of warm room air through the chimney.

- Cover the front of the fireplace with tempered glass doors or fireplace covers, which seal the fireplace opening and prevent room air from escaping through it.

- Install a heat exchanger, which will circulate the fire's warmth throughout the room.

- Hire a professional to sweep your chimney and clean and maintain the fireplace.

- Consider replacing wood with electric "logs" you can insert into the fireplace, or plug in an electric fireplace instead of burning wood.

It makes sense to conserve as much heat as we can when running a furnace or heat pump during the winter. The fireplace is one energy-waster you can tame pretty easily. ■

In Appreciation to Our Customers, Employees and Public Power Neighbors

Klickitat PUD thanks all of our customers for their patience during the recent major storm outage December 14 to 20. The high winds sent broken limbs and trees through power lines, causing major damage throughout the county.

We encountered outages in the Bingen, White Salmon, Snowden and Husum areas for about two days.

The Trout Lake and Glenwood areas were hit the worst. Most of the Trout Lake customers were out of power for approximately three days. About 20 customers in that area were out of power for six days.

The Glenwood area's power was off approximately five days, as well as a couple of customers in White Salmon.

Our crews worked around the



clock for three days repairing damaged lines as quickly as possible, and 16 to 18 hours a day thereafter

until all customers were back on line.

The offices were staffed 24 hours a day to answer phone calls and assist the crews in locating all of the outages.

Northern Wasco PUD came to our assistance, sending two line crews and one tree crew over.

We understand the importance of having electricity during this cold time of year, and appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation during their difficult time without power. Klickitat PUD also sends thanks to the businesses who opened their doors late at night to make sure our crews had something to eat. It was greatly appreciated!

Watch for a full story in next month's Ruralite, with additional interesting pictures of the damaged power lines. ■