



safety setup

Chimenea Installation and Care



Please read these instructions carefully and keep them for future reference. Always exercise caution when using your chimenea, as you are dealing with a real fire.

GENERAL SAFETY

Always follow these instructions. Failure to do so may result in injury or damage to property.

- Place your chimenea on a flat, non-flammable surface such as stone, gravel or bricks. Do not place on grass, wood, or decking unless protected with slabs or a **floor protector**
- Keep your chimenea away from plants, trees, awnings, and garden furniture (minimum 1 metre distance recommended).
- Do not use indoors or in enclosed spaces such as conservatories, sheds or summer houses. Burning fuel produces carbon monoxide, which is colourless, odourless and extremely dangerous.
- The chimenea will become very hot during use. Do not touch it while burning.
- Always use heat-resistant **FIRE GLOVES** when handling or adding fuel.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance.
- Do not overfill with fuel. If flames are coming out of the chimney, the fire is too large.
- Never leave a burning chimenea unattended.
- Do not move the chimenea while in use.
- Avoid use in windy conditions.
- Be considerate to neighbours by minimising smoke and noise.

HANDLING AND POSITIONING

- Clay chimeneas are fragile and must be handled with care at all times.
- Never “let go” of the chimenea when placing it down. Always lower it gently to avoid impact damage.
- Even a small drop can cause cracking or chipping.
- When transporting, ensure it is secure and cushioned with blankets or padding.
- Do not drag the chimenea on its stand. Always lift it off before repositioning.
- Avoid knocking or striking the chimenea with hard objects.
- Do not throw fuel into the chimenea, as impact may cause damage or instability.

USING YOUR CLAY CHIMENEA

Clay chimeneas are handmade and designed for outdoor heating and cooking. They radiate gentle heat and do not require a large fire. If you can see the flames out the top of the chimenea, it is too fierce. Avoid adding more fuel till the flames no longer show.

- Use only small fires – one or two logs are sufficient.
- The belly of the chimenea can be used for cooking.
- Do not feed fuel through the chimney.
- Always remove the lid when the chimenea is in use.

THERMAL SHOCK PREVENTION

Thermal shock occurs when clay heats or cools too quickly.

- Add a layer (approx. 50mm) of **lava stones**, sand or gravel to the base before use.
- Start with small fires using newspaper and kindling.
- Gradually increase heat over time to allow the clay to cure.
- Avoid large, roaring fires, if you can see the flames out the top of the chimenea, it is too fierce. Avoid adding more fuel till the flames no longer show.
- Never use petrol, paraffin or spirit-based fuels.
- Do not extinguish with water unless in an emergency.
- Do not overfuel. If flames are visible from the chimney, allow the fire to reduce before adding more fuel.
- Be mindful of cold weather, as larger temperature differences increase the risk of cracking.

Small cracks may occur and can often be repaired with **fire cement**. Larger structural cracks mean the chimenea should no longer be used for fires.

WINTER CARE AND FROST PROTECTION

Clay is porous and absorbs moisture.

- Keep the chimenea dry wherever possible for example with a protective **chimenea cover**. Make sure to choose the right size for your chimenea.
- Store indoors during winter if possible.
- If left outside, only cover when the chimenea is completely dry.

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- A **padded winter cover** provides better protection. Make sure to choose the right size for your chimenea.
- If the chimenea has become saturated, allow it to fully dry before use.

When temperatures fall below freezing, absorbed moisture can freeze and expand, causing cracks. This is a natural characteristic of clay. You can mend small cracks with **Gardeco Crack Repair Filler** but if large cracks appear it is recommended to discontinue use other than decorative.

FUEL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

- Use dry, seasoned or kiln-dried wood or charcoal.
- Wet wood produces excessive smoke.
- Do not overfuel.
- Use a **FIRE POKER** to safely reposition logs and maintain airflow.
- Always use **FIRE GLOVES** when adding fuel or adjusting the fire.
- If fuel falls out or flames spread, calmly extinguish using sand, earth or a **FIRE BLANKET**.

MAINTENANCE

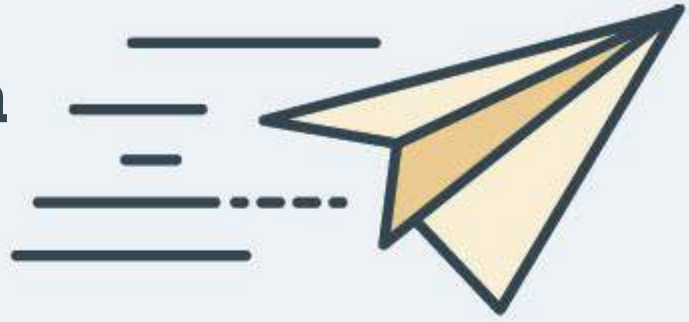
- The surface finish will naturally change colour with use.
- The chimenea can be repainted if desired.
- The metal stand may rust; protect or repaint as needed.
- Rust may stain surfaces, so consider using a **floor protector**.
- Minor cracks can be repaired with fire **cement**.

Over time, all clay chimeneas may develop cracks. If cracks become large or structural, discontinue use for fires and use for decorative purposes only.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the care of your chimenea or associated products, please feel free to give us a call on 01423 209124 or get in touch via our **contact page**

The Bijou Stove Company Chimenea Installation and Care



Unlock the secrets to safely enjoying your chimenea with this comprehensive guide on installation and care. From essential safety precautions to expert tips on fuel management and winter protection, this booklet ensures your outdoor experience remains delightful year-round. Whether you're heating up a cozy gathering or cooking a meal, keep your chimenea in top shape for years of enjoyment.