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THE MAGAZINE FOR THE SOUTH SOUND



CONDO REMODEL

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15 *chic* boutiques
HOT winter drinks
fine art fireplaces



HOT HOT HOT *fireplaces*

have a hearth-warming winter

We've come a long way from using fireplaces as a simple heating source or cooking mechanism. Sure, fireplaces have maintained their basic utility over the years, but these days homeowners are taking notice to the endless possibilities of new forms and functions and styles. >>

BY ETHAN CHUNG

GAS

Installation: A gas fireplace can be installed almost anywhere in the home as long as natural gas or propane is available. Always use the services of the most experienced and qualified technician you can find. Gas lines should only be run by licensed plumbers or HVAC technicians (check your local area for requirements). Installation can occur along an outside wall or in the middle of a room. Zero clearance construction makes this possible because very little space is needed between the unit and combustible materials.

Function: Generally cheaper and more efficient than wood-burning fireplaces. There are many variables in determining the actual costs, such as location of your home, how air tight it is, the size of your room and the cost of gas in your area.

Maintenance: Generally clean burning and requires little maintenance. The HPBA recommends an annual inspection by a qualified professional who can inspect the burner, fan, venting, pilot light and thermostat and clean the glass.

ELECTRIC

Installation: No real installation costs unless you need to run wiring for an outlet where you want to place this fireplace. The perfect choice for a bathroom, small office, apartment or wherever you can't have a flue.

Function: Costs will depend on your electric rate from your provider. Generally, electric fireplaces are a great heat source.

Maintenance: Electric fireplaces are mostly carefree because there isn't fire or ash. Have a professional check your electrical wiring to be sure it can handle an electric unit. >>



LEFT (OPPOSITE PAGE) two story propane fireplace with surround made of Eldorado stone
TOP RIGHT custom fireplace surround by Absolute ConcreteWorks

BOTTOM LEFT Majestic Fireplaces 360DVS3 gas fireplace with optional Bridgewater Mantel Cap features three sides of glass from which to feel the warmth and admire the flames

BOTTOM RIGHT Allura-Fire Cortland Corner Wenge, VCEF33, is one of a series of charming, attractive and totally affordable electric fireplaces from Vermont Castings





FIREPLACE 411

So what kind of fireplace should you choose for your home? There are many different designs and styles, but there are three basic types: wood burning, gas and electric. Buyers should consider installation costs, function, and maintenance in addition to looks.

WOOD BURNING

Installation: Masonry fireplaces will cost more due to labor and the higher cost of stone or brick; manufactured units are generally much easier to install and usually more affordable.

Function: Wood-burning fireplaces can be highly inefficient, but two newer, high-efficiency fireplaces, "Clean Burning" and "EPA-certified" (burn less than 7.5 grams of particulates per hour), are more technologically advanced. These fireplaces are insulated, closed-combustion systems (glass doors need to be closed for proper operation) that burn wood more efficiently and generate a substantial amount of heat.

Maintenance: Although traditional wood-burning fireplaces offer that warm, cozy ambiance, maintaining one can be a bit messy at times. The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA) recommends fireplaces and chimneys be inspected annually and cleaned as necessary by a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America. >>



TOP LEFT big sky boulder by Tulikivi
BOTTOM LEFT "Every time I sit in front of it, pondering ideas for my writing, it provides the perfect inspiration." – Michael Loeff, writer for the series "24." A custom fireplace surround by Absolute ConcreteWorks
RIGHT (OPPOSITE PAGE) custom fireplace mantle by The Stone Source NW





MORE LOCAL FIREPLACE & STOVE RESOURCES:

Alki Stove & Spa, Inc., Silverdale and Sequim Details:
360.692.4303, www.alkistove-spa.com

Aqua Rec's Swimmin Hole & Fireplace Shop, various
locations Details: 253.565.4763, www.aquarec.com

Capital City Stove & Fan, Olympia Details:
360.943.5587, www.capitalcitystove.com

Fircrest Hearth & Home, Fircrest Details: 253.564.0680,
www.fircresthearthandhome.com

Olympia Fireplace & Spa, Olympia Details:
360.352.4328, www.olympiafireplace.com

Puget Sound Fireplace, Tacoma Details: 253.472.4995,
www.pugetsoundfireplace.com



A COLD, COLD WORLD

"It's such a cold, cold world." That's Tulikivi's motto, anyway, and they build products to keep people warm. The Finnish company is the largest soapstone processing company and manufacturer of soapstone fireplaces in the world. Form follows function, even in their name. "Tulikivi" is a combination of two Finnish words, "fire" and "stone."

Why soapstone? Its soft quality makes it easy to manipulate and it absorbs and distributes heat evenly.

In addition to creating a cozy atmosphere, a Tulikivi soapstone fireplace reduces heating expenses. In the event of a power outage, a soapstone fireplace retains heat for about 24 hours with just one load of wood. Firewood burns quickly and efficiently. The fireplace releases the heat evenly into the room's air in the form of gentle heat radiation. A wood-burning Tulikivi fireplace is an energy-saving alternative method of heating that provides a homey atmosphere in both modern and more traditional homes. The high-quality design and wide range of models guarantee that the fireplaces combine both beauty and utility.

There are 13 basic models and some include an integrated bake oven and cast-iron cooktop. For more information and to locate a distributor, contact Tulikivi at 1.800.843.3473 or visit the Web site at www.tulikivi.com.



TOP LEFT rinnetupa by Tulikivi

BOTTOM LEFT ExtremeView 33XDV in Sterling White is one in Vermont Castings' line of dramatic, exciting, sophisticated and efficient direct vent gas fireplaces



CONCRETE **HEAT**

Concrete holds more heat than most typical stones, is generally easy to clean, and is simple to remove and recycle.

Absolute ConcreteWorks of Poulsbo is an award winning, artistic pre-cast company that specializes in the design and casting of custom fireplace surrounds. They also produce a variety of other things including countertops, outdoor kitchens, bathtubs and dramatic fountains with life-like leaf designs.

So why choose concrete?
"Concrete begins as a liquid, and therefore the design potential and opportunities for personalization, colors options and details such as inlay of personal items, artifacts, or elements of nature are boundless," explains Steve Silberman, president at Absolute.

Concrete is fire-resistant and is an ideal material for renewing an existing fireplace surround. The company also designs some fireplace surrounds with a new, lightweight, glass-fiber reinforced concrete that allows them to create larger pieces with little or no seams.

The company serves all of the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit their Poulsbo design studio and showroom or call 360.297.5055 or go to their Web site at www.absoluteconcreteworks.com.



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