

# CHIMNEYS, FIREPLACES AND WOOD BURNING REQUIREMENTS

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## Seismic reinforcing – Cal. Code Regs. § R1001.3. (2021).

Masonry or concrete chimneys in all structures assigned to Seismic category C, D<sub>0</sub>, D<sup>1</sup>, D<sup>2</sup> shall be reinforced. Reinforcing shall conform to the requirements set forth in Cal. Code Regs. § R1001.3. (2021) and Cal. Code Regs. § R606 (2021).

## Seismic anchorage – Cal. Code Regs. § R1001.4. (2021).

Masonry or concrete chimneys in all structures assigned to seismic design categories C, D<sub>0</sub>, D<sup>1</sup>, D<sup>2</sup> shall be anchored at each floor, ceiling or roof line more than 6 feet above grade, except where constructed completely within the exterior walls. Anchors shall conform to the requirements in Cal. Code Regs. § R1001.4.1 (2021).

This handout describes the requirements for the construction, alteration, or repair of wood burning appliances as stipulated in the City of Menlo Park Ordinance 12.52, Wood-burning Appliances and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Regulation 6, Particulate Matter; Rule 3, Wood-Burning Devices (Reg. 6, Rule 3). A wood-burning appliance is defined as a fireplace, wood heater, or pellet-fired wood heater or any similar device burning any solid fuel used for aesthetic or space-heating purposes.

## Scopes of work

- Installation of any new wood-burning appliance in all residential and commercial buildings
- Gas fireplace conversions
- Reconstruction of an existing wood-burning appliance
- Additions, alterations or repairs to a wood-burning appliance, except minor repairs such as damper or firebox repairs, seismic bracing, and/or flue liner replacements where the alteration or repair will not cause the deconstruction of existing fireplace, chimney, and/or flue
- Prohibited appliances and fuels
- Remodels or renovations of buildings in which walls are opened within 12 inches of the wood-burning appliance, including masonry fireplaces
- Any extension of a chimney is considered an alteration and will require compliance with Ordinance 12.52
- Certifications for wood burning appliances

The building official shall have the final authority to determine whether a repair constitutes a minor repair.

## Scopes of work exempt

- New and existing natural gas fireplaces, log sets and inserts.
- Existing wood-burning fireplaces, wood-burning heaters and/or other wood-burning appliances unaltered during construction and where the surrounding walls are undisturbed within 12 inches of the appliance.

All wood-burning appliances regulated by Ordinance 12.52 and/or BAAQMD Reg. 6, Rule 3 shall be U.S. EPA Phase II certified. A pellet-fueled device, emission reduction device or a low mass fireplace (pre-fabricated in a manufacturing facility prior to installation), masonry heater or other wood-burning appliance of a make and model that meets EPA emission targets and has been approved in writing by the Air Pollution Control Officer of the BAAQMD may be installed.

For a list of EPA certified wood-burning appliances visit: [epa.gov/burnwise](http://epa.gov/burnwise)