



## C - T H R U

### HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE FOR YOUR CONTEMPO FIREPLACE

Before building your first fire, read this warranty and operation manual carefully. By fully understanding and observing the operating guidelines in this booklet, you will enjoy safe and comfortable warmth from your fireplace. Remember, you are building a fire inside your home, so it is important that you observe these guidelines.

**This general purpose guide is supplied for use with all wood-burning and gas converted Contempo fireplace systems. *Make sure you are following the recommendations appropriate for the type of fireplace you have purchased.***

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Important Safety Precautions .....	2
Understanding Your Fireplace .....	2
Operating Your Fireplace .....	3
Cleaning & Maintaining Your Fireplace .....	4
Troubleshooting .....	4
Contempo Fireplace Accessories .....	5
Customer Service .....	7



## Important Safety Precautions

Contempo's Limited warranty will be voided, and Contempo, LLC will disclaim any responsibility, for the following:

- IMPROPER INSTALLATION OF YOUR CONTEMPO FIREPLACE AND CONTEMPO COMPONENT PARTS: CONSULT YOUR INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION BOOK.
- ALTERATION OF THE CONTEMPO FIREPLACE OR ANY OF ITS COMPONENT PARTS.

THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS PRESENTED IN THIS HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE CANNOT COVER ALL POSSIBLE SITUATIONS THAT MAY ARISE DURING YOUR FIREPLACE OPERATION. COMMON SENSE, CAUTION, AND CARE MUST ALWAYS BE USED.

### Safety Precautions for Wood Burning Fireplace Operation

NEVER START A FIRE WITH A LIQUID FIRE STARTER, INCLUDING:

- gasoline
- kerosene
- liquid bar-b-que starters

NEVER BURN TRASH OR CHRISTMAS TREES.

- They create extremely hot fires.
- They cause sparks that may be hazardous.

NEVER USE WOOD PRODUCTS WITH SYNTHETIC BINDERS.

- They build up creosote in your flue system and termination which may cause a hazardous condition.

CAUTION YOUR CHILDREN AND BE AWARE OF YOUR PETS.

- The exposed parts of your fireplace and glass panel (if installed) become very hot.

**WARNING: TO AVOID THE RISK OF DAMAGING FIREPLACE MATERIALS AND INCREASING THE RISK OF SPREADING A FIRE, DO NOT USE THE FIREPLACE TO COOK OR WARM FOODS.**

**CAUTION: Never use gasoline, gasoline-type lantern fuel, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, or similar liquids to start or "freshen up" a fire in this fireplace. Keep all such liquids well away from the fireplace while it is in use.**

### Understanding Your Fireplace

This Omni-Test Laboratories listed fireplace has been tested to UL 127 test standards and is well insulated for safe clearances to combustible construction materials used to build your home. The proper clearances are described by a label on each component for use by the installers and by the local building inspector to ensure compliance.

#### Firebox and Chase

The firebox is the part of your fireplace where the fire is built: it is made of pre-cast components consisting of castable refractory and lightweight concrete. The air space between the firebox and chase provides air circulation—a feature that has been engineered for safe and efficient operation.

**WARNING: DO NOT OVERFUEL FIREPLACE, OR FILL WITH WOOD BEYOND THE ANDIRON GRATE AREA. OVERLOAD WILL CAUSE SMOKE SPILLAGE INTO THE ROOM.**

## Chimney System

The chimney is made of metal. It extends from the top of the fireplace through the roof and is capped with a screened termination. The inner liner (flue) of the chimney is made of stainless steel and allows exhaust of gases (carbon monoxide) from the fire. The outer liner is made of galvanized steel and provides the passage for cooling air to keep the chimney safe at tested clearances to combustible building materials.

## Damper

The damper is the metal disk found at the base of the chimney (flue) and has two positions: open and closed. (See 'Damper Operation' below.)

## Damper Operation

The flue gas damper is located inside the firebox, and is similar to the damper found on a conventional masonry fireplace. Look within the top of the fireplace and locate the damper handle extending from the damper. Pushing the lever up opens the damper. Pulling down closes it. This action can be easily accomplished with a fireplace poker.

## Combustion Air Kit

When the fireplace has, or may be, converted to all gas burning, a combustion air kit should be installed at the same time as the fireplace.

## Fireplace Grate

The unit has a required grate for wood burning; designed to keep the operation of your fireplace efficient and safe. Do not attempt to defeat its purpose. The size and position of the grate have been engineered to give the ideal combustion characteristics for the fire. By keeping your logs within the grate and not on the hearth, you will prevent the chance of having a log "spill" or rollout of the fireplace. **DO NOT OVERLOAD THE FIREPLACE.** Piling excessive wood on your grate will not increase efficiency, and could cause smoke to enter your room. When replacing the grate, use only the appropriate Contempo replacement grate for your fireplace model.

## Operating Your Fireplace

- Do not place combustible materials closer than 48" from the fireplace face.
- Keep the grate centered in fireplace.
- Open the flue damper. ***The flue damper must be in the fully opened position.***
- Build a proper fire.
- Use dry wood that has been seasoned for at least one year.
- Criss-cross small pieces of wood and place crumpled newspaper under them.
- Place several logs on grate. **DO NOT OVERLOAD OR FILL BEHIND THE GRATE.**
- Light the newspaper, or gas log lighter if one has been installed.
- Close the fire screen (optional accessory: see the Contempo Fireplace Accessories & Options').
- In cold weather, to assure proper draw, preheat the flue by burning a crumpled newspaper in the damper area. This will help to heat the flue. Open the damper before this procedure is started.
- After using the fireplace, do not close the damper until you are certain there are no warm embers.
- If you are using processed solid fuel fire logs, do not poke or stir the logs while they are burning.
- This fireplace is not intended to be used as a substitute for a furnace to heat an entire home. Use for supplementary heating only.

## Cleaning & Maintaining Your Fireplace

### Creosote Formation and Removal

Creosote accumulations in the chimney are extremely dangerous and present a serious fire hazard. The tar-like substance is generated when wood is burned slowly, producing tar and other organic vapors. When combined with expelled moisture, creosote vapors condense in the relatively cool chimney flue of a slow-burning fire. Creosote build-up can ignite suddenly and will burn at extremely high temperatures. The chimney should be inspected at least twice a year during the heating season to determine if a creosote build-up has occurred: if so, it should be removed to reduce the risk of a chimney fire.

### Chimney Cleaning Instructions

In order to clear creosote from the flue, the chimney cap must be removed.

- If the termination is a round top characterized by 3 ft. of exposed pipe and a round cap, simply remove the three sheet metal screws that secure the termination to the last section of the pipe and lift the cap off.
- For chase style termination with a pyramid cap, remove the screws at the four corners that secure the top. Place the top aside. The flue is now clear for cleaning.
- Cleaning the chimney is very dirty work. Close the damper before starting or fine soot can become airborne in the house. After cleaning is completed, open the damper and collect the debris in a trash container. A professional chimney sweep has all the tools and experience necessary to do a complete job and should be considered for this chore. Be certain to clean all loose debris from spark arrestors before replacing terminations.

### Grate

If your grate has deteriorated or is distorted, it should be replaced with a Contempo grate designed for your fireplace.

## Troubleshooting

### Smoking

When installed and operated properly, your C-Thru fireplace will operate without smoke spillage into the room. In the event a smoking problem does occur, the cause may be easily traced to one of the conditions listed:

- Outside environmental conditions, such as inversions.
- Lack of ventilation due to a tightly insulated house. This can prevent the fireplace from drawing properly. Open a window slightly near the fireplace.
- Other appliances competing for the available air in a tightly sealed home, such as: heating appliances, kitchen exhaust fans, and bathroom exhaust fans.
- Relationship of your house to hills, trees and nearby taller buildings. This can affect wind conditions which will have a direct effect on your fireplace operation.
- Chimney termination not installed to the proper height.
- Blockage of the flue or the termination cap.
- Flue and termination caked with a creosote build-up.
- Grate too far forward, not positioned in center of hearth.
- Damper not in the fully opened position.

### **Cold Air Drafts**

In cold climates, you must take special precautions and follow the cold climate installation instruction section of your installation manual.

If cold air drafts are present when the fireplace is not in operation, you should check the following:

- If air is coming out of the fireplace opening, check to see that the damper is in the closed position.
- If air coming in around the sides of the fireplace, between the fireplace face and the wall, check to see that the fireplace frame has been caulked to the enclosure frame.
- Outside air must be introduced into the chase cavity to cool the double-wall chimney. Therefore, insulation should be installed on the fireplace face wall.

**NOTE:** After you have followed the precautions listed above, there may still be some cold air draft coming through other areas: this may be due to the circumstances beyond the manufacturer's control, such as air flow around the structure, tightness of the house (creating negative pressure), etc.

### **Whistling Noise (wood-burning Contempo fireplaces with glass door installed)**

During the summer, if your wood-burning fireplace has been equipped with a glass door and begins to make a whistling noise while an evaporative cooler is running, first make sure the damper is closed (this does not apply to gas-converted or all-gas fireplaces), then open a window that is close to the fireplace about one inch. The noise is caused by forced air around the door; opening a window will alleviate the pressure and should completely solve the problem.

### **Ash Disposal**

Ashes should be placed in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Pending final disposal, the closed container of ashes should be placed on a non-combustible floor or on the ground, well away from all combustible materials. If the ashes are disposed of by burial in soil or otherwise locally dispersed, they should be retained in the closed container until all cinders have thoroughly cooled.

Keep all combustible furnishings a considerable distance from the fireplace.

**WARNING:** NEVER BLOCK A VENT OR GRILLE OF THE FIREPLACE. THESE ARE IMPORTANT TO THE COOLING OF THE FIREPLACE AND ASSURE SAFE AND PROPER OPERATION AS DESIGNED.

## **Contempo Fireplace Accessories & Options**

### **Glass Door**

Glass doors are available as an optional accessory for use on all Contempo Fireplace models. They are recommended for use when the fireplace has been converted to a ceramic gas log system to eliminate drafts and heat loss. Refer to the fireplace installation instructions as to which model fits your fireplace.

**WARNING:** THIS FIREPLACE HAS NOT BEEN TESTED FOR USE WITH DOORS. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR INJURY, DO NOT INSTALL DOORS.

**WARNING:** WHEN WOOD BURNING IN THE C-THRU, A CONTEMPO HIGH TEMPERATURE GLASS FIXED PANEL MUST BE IN PLACE ON ONE OF THE OPENINGS TO PROVIDE THE PROPER FIREPLACE DRAFT.

Installation of a screen door is optional for wood-burning fireplaces. Both styles are easy to install and remove. Contact your dealer for selection and availability.

**WARNING: DO NOT USE A FIREPLACE INSERT OR PRODUCTS NOT SPECIFIED FOR USE WITH THIS FIREPLACE.**

### **Gas Conversion**

If you are converting a Contempo wood-burning fireplace to burn gas, you will need the Contempo ceramic log and grate set. See the pre-installation page on log lighter installation for more information.

**WARNING: ONLY A LICENSED AND CERTIFIED NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE CONTRACTOR SHOULD INSTALL ANY GAS CONVERSION OR ALL-GAS FIREPLACE. ANY PERMITS AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SPECIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THIS CONTRACTOR.**

**WARNING: THIS FIREPLACE HAS NOT BEEN TESTED WITH AN UNVENTED GAS LOG SET. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR INJURY, DO NOT INSTALL AN UNVENTED GAS LOG SET INTO THIS FIREPLACE.**

When converting to gas, it is required that the damper be secured in a permanently open position. ***It must not be closed.***

### **Gas-Only Converted Fireplace**

Lighting instructions vary with the type of valve installed: see valve manufacturer's instructions for lighting.

## Customer Service

Enjoy your fireplace. If you have any problems, please review this guide for a possible solution. If the problem persists, please contact your Contempo fireplace dealer or Contempo fireplace distributor. If you are unable to contact any of the above, a customer service representative at the Contempo fireplace factory is ready to help you.

Please contact:



10031 Southern SE • Albuquerque NM 87123  
phone 505.291.0500 fax 505.291.9317

For future reference, please fill out the following information: the model and serial numbers can be found on the rating plate in the firebox (see below). You will need to provide this information should you ever require factory or dealer assistance.

Fireplace Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fireplace Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Occupancy: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wood-Burning Fireplace Rating Plate

**NOTE:** The serial number and other pertinent information for the wood burning fireplace can be found on the rating plate located at the bottom of the front arch inside the firebox.

Tested & Listed By  Beaverton Oregon USA  
OMNI-Test Laboratories, Inc.  
REPORT NO.: 221-F-01-2  
FIREPLACE SERIAL NO.

MODEL :  
C - THRU FIREPLACE  
DATE OF MANUFACTURE:

UL 127 LISTED FACTORY BUILT FIREPLACE  
FIREPLACE INTENDED FOR USE WITH SOLID WOOD FUEL OR LISTED GAS LOGS ONLY. SEE CONTEMPO FIREPLACES INSTALLATION AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS MODEL.

WARNING: THIS FIREPLACE HAS NOT BEEN TESTED FOR USE WITH GLASS DOORS. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR INJURY, DO NOT OPERATE WITH GLASS DOORS. IF DOORS ARE USED OPERATE WITH FIREPLACE DOORS FULLY OPEN.

DO NOT USE FIREPLACE INSERT OR OTHER PRODUCTS NOT SPECIFIED FOR USE WITH THIS MODEL. USE ONLY CONTEMPO FIREPLACES GRATE.

MANUFACTURED BY  
CONTEMPO FIREPLACES  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87123

APPROVED AS A WOOD BURNING FIREPLACE OR FOR VENTED GAS LOGS APPROVED TO ANSI Z21.60 STANDARDS OR USE WITH VENT FREE GAS LOGS HEATER APPROVED TO ANSI Z21.11.2 STANDARDS. WHEN BURNING ANY TYPE OF GAS LOGS IN THE FIREPLACE ADJUST THE DAMPER TO THE FULLY OPEN POSITION.

### CLEARANCE:

SIDEWALL TO STOVE	21"	SIDE TRIM TO STOVE	6"	FRONT HEARTH EXTENSION	24"
TOP TRIM TO STOVE	15"	MANTLE TO STOVE	20"	SIDE HEARTH EXTENSION	12"

\*FOR GAS LOGS SEE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEARTH EXTENSION CLEARANCES.  
18 FEET OF FLUE PIPE IS REQUIRED FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS.

**For any warranty claims, contact your dealer where you purchased your Contempo Fireplace.**



**FIVE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY**

CONTEMPO LLC. HEREIN WARRANTIES THE COMPLETE MASONRY FIREBOX AND METAL ACCESSORIES AGAINST ANY DEFECTS. ANY DEFECTS DUE TO SHIPPING OR MANUFACTURING MUST BE REGISTERED AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY. IF THE PRODUCT IS UNACCEPTABLE DUE TO DAMAGE OR DEFECT, THE PRODUCT MUST BE UNACCEPTED AND RETURNED BY THE SAME SHIPPER IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS WARRANTY VALID.

CONTEMPO LLC. WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ASSERTED DEFECT, WHICH HAS BEEN RETURNED DUE TO NORMAL WEAR, MISUSE, ABUSE OR REPAIR OR ALTERATION MADE OR SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN CONTEMPO OR A CONTEMPO REPRESENTATIVE.

CONTEMPO LLC. IS NOT REponsible FOR ANY DEFECTS DUE TO IMPROPER INSTALLATION OR FIREPLACE FINISHING. THIS WARRANTY IS CONTEMPO'S SOLE WARRANTY AND SETS FORTH THE CUSTOMER'S EXCLUSIVE REMEDY, WITH RESPECT TO IT'S DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS; ALL OTHER WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED DUE TO INSTALLATION OR FINISHING, ARE EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED BY CONTEMPO.



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