

CHESNEY'S

— Cast Iron and Steel Advice Sheet —

“While many stages of the surround and decorative hearth installation are suitable for someone experienced in general building practices, others like the installation of appliances for solid fuel, flue lining, gas work and the sweeping and testing of flues must be carried out by a suitably qualified professional”



All cast iron products are supplied with a protective oil-based coating on the polished surfaces. During the installation process this can sometimes be removed so it is very important that a spray-type protective coat of oil (for example WD40) is applied after installation and before the product is used.

It is recommended that the same oil is applied on a regular basis in order to avoid surface rust appearing. As water vapour is a product of combustion, some degree of discolouration is inevitable with the burning of both gas and solid fuel fires.

Always ensure that the room in which the cast iron product is being installed is thoroughly dry. For example recently plastered or painted walls will cause high levels of moisture in the atmosphere and, as a result, rust is likely to occur.

Under no circumstances should a water based cleaner or polish be used to clean cast iron products as this will lead to the appearance of surface rust. When using ceramic coals and logs with gas effect fires, ensure these do not touch any of the polished surfaces as this will help to minimise the possibility of thermal discolouration. However, thermal discolouration is normal and unavoidable with use, with solid fuel fires this will be

immediate and with gas effect fires this will be more gradual.

High temperature paint is used on the black parts of the product and particularly where the fire will burn, once this protective coat of paint is burnt away this area of the product will rust. The paint used is a high temperature proprietary paint available from most builder's merchants, paint suppliers or DIY stores. Traditionally these areas would be maintained using a black graphite polish.



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Burning a Solid Fuel Fire and Tempering Cast Iron

A new cast iron fireplace which is to be used with solid fuel **MUST** be correctly installed and tempered before regular use; this is done by burning a minimum of six small fires consecutively. Each fire must consist of no more than 3 kgs of fuel. This process will ensure that the heat damage through consistent use is kept to a minimum but acceptable level when burning solid fuels.

It is your responsibility to burn smoke free fuels if you live in a smoke free zone. Coal or wood must not be burnt in Smoke Control Areas.

There are some very high temperature burning fuels which can cause damage to any fireplace. We **DO NOT** recommend the use of peat briquettes.

Please refer to the Solid Fuel Association (www.solidfuel.co.uk) recommendations and always use an approved coal merchant as your supplier.

No responsibility can be accepted if high temperature fuels have been used or if there is excessive draft. If in doubt we recommend the use of a clay fire back to protect the cast iron.

Clean the ash away after each fire.

The grate is a consumable part of your fire and may need to be replaced from time to time; this will depend on the frequency and burning temperature of your fire.

If you require any further assistance in relation to information provided above, please do not hesitate to contact sales on the following:

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