

For more information about masonry fireplaces, chimneys and ovens, contact your local masonry dealer.

Clay Flue Lining institute

## Masonry Construction for Fireplaces, Chimneys and Ovens



Your choice for  
quality, versatility  
and fire safety



## What is Masonry Construction?

Concrete block. Brick. Stone. Clay products. Masonry construction materials have been a preferred choice since ancient times. But what is masonry construction? It is a time-tested construction method that has been perfected over time, and used in some of the most noteworthy structures around the world. Individual units of block, brick, stone, clay products and mortar make up walls and a wide variety of enclosures including fireplaces, chimneys and ovens.

Perhaps the most visible example of masonry construction



in a home or office is a masonry fireplace. The warmth of a fire can bring life, energy and charm to any room. Adding a masonry fireplace can add an old world ambiance reminding us of a by-gone era. But it's also contemporary as masonry fireplaces are increasingly

popular, becoming the preferred choice today among builders, architects and interior designers.



## Why Choose a Masonry Fireplace or Oven?

The design of masonry fireplaces and ovens has improved tremendously over the last several decades. Newer designs provide much better heat and are safer than in the past. All are made from products that are fire-safe, meeting the most rigorous building code requirements across North America.

Masonry fireplaces and ovens are also unmatched in terms of design, durability, and quality. They are made from environmentally friendly earthen materials that are readily available, and can be made into an unlimited number of sizes and shapes. Hand-crafted installations provide a natural and esthetically beautiful appearance to your home. Most importantly, anyone from a do-it-yourselfer to an experienced mason can build with masonry materials.

## A Difference in Quality

Properly constructed and maintained, masonry fireplaces, chimneys and ovens will last a lifetime. Masonry construction products provide the most consistent quality, structural integrity, and are made in the USA.

A masonry fireplace and chimney are major architectural design features integrated into your home. There are many decorative options, styles, shapes and sizes for fireplace and stove designs. From contemporary models to traditional designs – such as the shallow and very efficient Rumford fireplace – you're sure to find the perfect option for your home or office décor.



## Why Not Choose A Pre-Fab Fireplace?

There are some distinct advantages for masonry fireplaces over pre-fab or manufactured designs. Because pre-fab designs are factory-built with pre-set sizes and specifications, they are limited in terms of design options. Masonry fireplaces, on the other hand, are custom designed and provide virtually unlimited options in terms of size and shape.

While factory-built fireplace units can last for many years, they ultimately need to be replaced. And, it can be a problem when replacement parts are no longer available. A masonry fireplace and chimney will always last longer than a factory-built fireplace.

## Indoor and Outdoor Options

Although fireplaces have been in homes for ages, there are a few new trends. The fastest growing are the popular outdoor fireplaces, which extend the season for people to enjoy their backyard living spaces. These fireplaces can burn wood or gas.

Masonry ovens are showing up in kitchens in greater numbers. These ovens give cooks the opportunity to re-create the brick-oven flavor found at restaurants in their own homes. Masonry ovens can also be built by themselves or as part of an outdoor kitchen.

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## Fire Safety

Masonry is made from non-combustible materials, and therefore protects surrounding property better than other building products. The thermal mass of masonry walls insulate against extreme temperatures better than metal or other materials, which can reduce heating and cooling costs. Properly constructed in accordance with local building codes, a masonry fireplace is a safe fireplace.

Lightning strikes can cause damage to any structure. All masonry products including firebrick and clay flue lining are non-conductive materials, and are the safest to use in fireplaces and chimney construction. Metal fireplace and chimney installations, by comparison, offer no resistance to the full force of lightning if not properly grounded and maintained, and therefore may provide a direct conduit to your living quarters.

## Maintenance

Like any appliance, some maintenance is required to keep your home or office safe, and your masonry unit functioning properly. Always keep your chimney or oven clean, and free from excessive soot, ashes or debris. Have your unit inspected regularly by a professional. Make sure the exterior of your chimney is weatherproofed, and provide a cap or top to protect the interior from the elements. With a few basic steps each year, you can be sure your fireplace, chimney or oven will provide safe, reliable enjoyment for years to come.

Contact your local builder, masonry supply store, or contractor to learn more about the quality and versatility of masonry construction for your fireplace, chimney or oven.