



Sweep Dreams Chimney Service, Inc
1350 Scenic Drive NW
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

"The absolute finest chimney care in Central Minnesota"

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SPRING NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2006



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High Fuel Prices Created Wood-burning Insert Shortage Last Fall

Last fall many people decided to burn wood to help bring the cost of home heating down, only to find there was a shortage of wood stoves and fireplace inserts.

High demand created a shortage not seen since the 1970's. This year, don't get caught in the cold by waiting until fall or winter. We have several in stock this year, (especially since there seems to be no end in sight for the current energy crisis). We also have inserts and woodstoves on display in our showroom for the first time.

Many people tell me they no longer use their fire-

place because they can't justify letting all that heated air go up their chimney. I don't blame them, if they have a traditional old-fashioned fireplace that is exactly what is happening. We can fix that!

Our Napoleon insert will turn your old fireplace into a beautiful, efficient, serious heating appliance. New technology has made possible state of the art stoves and inserts which produce more heat with less wood.

You will never regret adding an appliance that not only looks beautiful, but adds so much ambiance to your home. The real benefit is the reward you will see every month when you get your heating bill.

Words of Wisdom

When asked by one of our customers if fuel costs will be high again next heating season,

I can only reply with one of my favorite Yogi Berra quotes:

"It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future"

Wanted: Happy Customers

We are putting together a collection of testimonials from customers who have been happy with the service they have received from Sweep Dreams Chimney Service and our employees. If you are one of those people, we would love it if you would email or snail mail a short paragraph to us to share with other potential customers. In the brochure we will use only your first name and town in which you live. However, we would like to send a gift to those that take the time to share, and for that we need your complete name and address along with a phone number, so we can verify facts, if needed.

E-mail to SweepDreams@astound.net, or mail to Sweep Dreams Chimney Service, 1350 Scenic Drive NW, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

With spring here, family get-togethers that include traditional holiday foods come to mind. And what is more traditional than ham dinner with all the fix'ns, including dinner rolls? I got this recipe from my sister Karen. She is a great cook, and we all marvel at the way she always serves wonderful homemade dishes. She makes it look so easy, and guess what? This one is easy, even though they look like you slaved in the kitchen for hours.

Refrigerator Crescent Rolls

COMBINE & LET COOL

1/2 cup boiling water
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp salt

ADD TO ABOVE

2 beaten eggs
2 pkgs yeast
1/2 cup warm water
2 tsp sugar

Add 4 cups flour. Dough will be sticky. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Next morning roll out on flour, 2 circles. Spread lightly with butter. Cut with pizza cutter into 12 pieces. Roll loosely and shape, tuck tail under. 24 crescents, or for dinner rolls, make 36 (3 circles).

Cover and let rise about two hours.

Bake 350 degrees for 12 minutes or until light golden brown. 10 minutes for smaller rolls.

Brush with melted butter while still warm.



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Five Reasons To Sweep Your Chimney Early This Year

When the heating season is done, it's only natural for you to stop thinking about the furnace, fireplace and chimney. But there are benefits to getting ready for the next season early.

Fireplace odors are worst in the spring and summer. By sweeping and deodorizing your fireplace after the heating season, you can minimize or eliminate this awful smell.

There is always a long wait in the fall. We feel bad that we can't get to loyal customers like you, but the demand in the fall is just overwhelming. By doing your maintenance early, you avoid the inconvenience of waiting in the busy season.

Soot and water make acids that deteriorate mortar

joints. The process is slow, but it speeds up the longer you leave soot in the chimney.

Find the problems before it gets cold. Every year there are plenty of emergencies at the beginning of the heating season. We trust nothing will be wrong with your chimney, but if there is a problem, let's find out before you need the chimney again!

We offer a discount in the spring. Because spring is somewhat slow for us, and because we need to pay our people all year, we offer a discount to reward you for helping us stay busy then.

Early chimney maintenance is good for you as well as us. Let us take care of your chimney early this year. Thanks

A New Addition To Sweep Dreams Fleet

As you are driving around town this spring, you are sure to notice the truck we've added to our fleet. We have a large picture of a Napoleon wood-burning insert on the side to remind people that we sell wood stoves and inserts.

If you see it parked in your neighborhood, chances are, one of your neighbors is having a new stove or insert installed, or maybe having their chimney relined or masonry repair done.

You will still see our familiar red and white vans out and about for chimney inspection and cleaning jobs.



Arborgardens Studio

Last newsletter announced a spring open house for Ruth's painting business, Arborgardens Studio. However, I have been asked to have an exhibit at the St Cloud Civic Center for the months of April and May. If you are in the area, please stop by, her work will be displayed in the two large glassed in cases in the lobby. She specializes in portraits, but also does commissioned work of all types. Some recently commissioned pieces that have been finished, are portraits of homes and lake properties. To view a sample of her work, log on to mnartists.org search for Ruth McGrath.



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2006 NCSG Convention

Our company just returned from the annual National Chimney Sweep Guild Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. We were there for four days of continuing education and to attend their trade show. Every year we bring back ideas and tools that enable us to serve you better.

As you know, our technicians are all certified, and need to complete a certain amount of continuing education units (CEUs) to re-certify every third year. Here is a sample of the classes completed by our crew to become even better at what they do:

Codes & Standards Update
Rapidly Changing EPA Guidelines
Getting Smoke to Go Up

Fundamental Principles of Draft
Properties of Clay Flue Tile
Digital Imaging

We do everything we can to be the best at what we do. As you can see, it does matter if you have a certified sweep.

2006 CMBA Home Show

The annual CMBA Home Show was March 10-12. It was good to see some of you that stopped by to say "Hi." As usual, we get a fair amount of business from the show, but the most gratifying thing is getting out and visiting with new and old customers. We had some new additions to our booth this year. We featured the Smart Splitter, and let people try it for themselves. Everyone that tried it was surprised at how easily it splits wood, and my favorite part is never running out of kindling. We have two of the Smart Splitters, one for the house and one for our shop. With a plentiful supply of kindling, a couple of safelight fire starters, and a long handled wooden match, I pride myself in starting a fire with one match, every time. We feature all of these items on our website, click on "products."

New Yellow Page Ad

If you have looked up our number in the Yellow Pages lately, you may have noticed that our ad has a new look. We are trying to get the word out to everyone that price shopping for a chimney sweep is not always in your best interest. As you may or may not know, the state or US government does not regulate the chimney business. As a result anyone can buy a chimney brush and call himself or herself a sweep. Because our sweeps are certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America and our company is a member of the National Chimney Sweep Guild, we are obligated to adhere to a code of ethics.

You can be sure when doing business with Sweep Dreams Chimney Service that you and your home and family will be treated with respect. We have been in business in the area for over eleven years, and plan on being around for a long time. We want you to know that we consider it a privilege to be in your home and we don't take that responsibility lightly. Our technicians will always be driving a company truck and wear a picture identification card issued by the CSIA. We know that word of mouth is our best advertising, so we do our best to keep you happy.

Don't forget to check our website for specials throughout the year!



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