

Why So Many People Reline Their Chimneys

Newer homes almost always have clay tile liners. These were a huge improvement over the unlined chimneys of 100 years ago. But modern, more efficient heating appliances - coupled with lower quality bricks than they used to make - leave today's chimneys inadequate.

- Acids in soot mix with water to eat the mortar joints. Fumes and creosote are allowed to escape to the outside of the flue. This causes fire dangers, stains through the chimney walls, and odors.
- Water is a byproduct of burning fuel and this water is soaked into the liner. All winter it freeze and thaws, ruining your liner in record short time.
- Many heating appliances don't work as well as they should - or not at all, because the flue is improperly sized for the job. Most people think that "bigger is better," but not so. Every appliance (be it a furnace, fireplace or woodstove) is made to work best with a certain sized liner.

Oversized chimneys cause millions upon millions of dollars in chimney problems every year. Many chimney fires would be avoided simply by having a properly sized flue liner.

In old houses, installing a new furnace will show all of these problems right away. If you're thinking about a new furnace, you will need to install a new liner too.

Our company installs flexible stainless steel liners to their manufacturer's specifications, giving you a UL listed liner system. Best of all, these liners come with a lifetime warranty, so if the liner should ever fail, it will be replaced free of charge. You'll never get that kind of guarantee with a clay tile liner.

Americans everywhere are re-lining the chimneys that builders continue to build with 1900's technology. Ask for an assessment of your chimney today; we'll tell you what your options are so you can make the best decision for you and your family.

Call or log on today for more information!
www.SweepDreamsChimneyService.com
(320) 252-6242

Arboregardens STUDIO
Original Watercolor & Decorative Painting

Our office building serves more than one purpose. Besides being world headquarters for Sweep Dreams Chimney Service, part of the space is dedicated to Ruth's painting studio. The name of her business is Arboregardens Studio. The name comes from all of the gardens, and arbors on the property. The main focus of the business is, but not limited to, watercolor painting, with an emphasis on portraits. Four open houses were held in December 2005, with more to be scheduled for spring of 2006. Walk in visits are welcome, give Ruth a call at 249-9829 to be sure to find someone in the studio. She also has a website if you would like to see some of her work, go to www.mnartists.org and search for Ruth McGrath. The website is limited, but Ruth will soon have a new, more complete website of her own. We will give you that info as it becomes available. She has a lot of completed pieces, some for sale, some not for sale, on display. Commissions are available for portraits as well as homestead paintings, or just about anything you'd like. Gift certificates are available.



Sweep Dreams Chimney Service

Introducing... Sean Patrick and Haakon!

Our family is growing! Our newest employee, Anthony and his lovely wife Charlene have a new son. We think he is about the cutest baby we've ever seen. Of course, that has nothing to do with us being the proud grandparents.



If you've ever been to our office, you're familiar with our family pet and mascot, Haakon. He is a GIANT golden retriever, yet gentle and just an all around great dog. He has been with us since he was a pup, seven years ago. He loves being around people and likes to come along, wherever we go. It doesn't matter if it is to the house, the shop, the office. Life is great when you're a dog that gets to go along. Everything is a treat, no matter if you are going for a walk or going back into the house after just being outside for a few minutes. Maybe we could all learn something from our pets. The things that make our lives richer are the little, everyday things.

Kids are so much Fun!

We have some really great people on our customer list. After awhile, they begin to feel more like family and friends than customers.

We want to share with you a gift that was sent to us by one of our annual customers. We've been going to Brooke and Karen's house for a number of years now. When they were just little, their Mom rented Mary Poppins for them to watch before the first time they had a chimney sweep come to their home. Tom, being the good sport that he is, at the request of the family, wore his top hat and tails to impress the two wide eyed little girls. Now, the top hat and tails (traditional chimney sweep garb) are really quite cumbersome to wear, and therefore are generally saved for special occasions like the Home Show. Now every year we get the same request, and apparently, we've made quite an impression on Brooke, who sent us a book that she made after our last visit. To view the book, log onto our website, www.SweepDreamsChimneyService.com and click the button labeled *Brooke's Gift*. Thanks Brooke, we've really enjoyed your artistic talents and imagination.

Words of Wisdom

Our newsletter wouldn't be complete without some words of wisdom, here's one of our favorites.

"You can observe a lot just by watching."
-Yogi Berra



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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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How Chimney Inspections Benefit You

A chimney inspection helps keep your house and your loved ones safe. Here are a few ways you benefit from a chimney inspection:

- Making sure chimneys that are supposed to be OK really are. Gas and oil flues for example: When there's a problem they get even sootier than wood flues.
- Making sure the inside of the chimney is as good as the outside. Internal problems aren't so evident. Sometimes it takes specialty equipment, such as an internal video inspection system. Here are a few things that can be wrong:
 - Misaligned tiles leave openings inside the chimney.
 - Missing mortar - very common - also leaves gaps in the flue.
 - Cracks in the tiles- usually not easily visible.

If the inside of your chimney isn't tight, creosote leaks to the outside of the liner. At best it's a danger laying in wait; at worst there's a fire outside of the flue-liner only one un-insulated brick from the combustible framing of your home!

Blocked chimneys are a major cause of high carbon monoxide levels in homes, causing headache, flu-like symptoms, general malaise, poor performance in school or at work, and even death. In fact, CO poisoning affects more people each year than chimney fires.

Before you buy a house is the best time to find out about problems. Don't rely on home inspectors as they have limited capabilities and knowledge where chimneys are concerned. Insist on having an internal video inspection by the chimney professional you personally choose.

No matter how careful you are, you can't guarantee everything is perfect. But you can increase your chances of avoiding problems by thorough inspections. Call us today for an in-depth inspection to increase your safety and peace of mind.

Want to know more about your chimney? Most people don't, until there's a problem. Water intrusion, chimney fires, smoke backing up into your house - these are just a few of the problems that can be avoided with an annual chimney check up. We want you to be an informed consumer - our website is a great place to find information and links to other valuable websites. Check us out at www.SweepDreamsChimneyService.com

If you take these bars anywhere, be sure to bring a couple copies of the recipe, because everyone will be BEGGING for it!

Mixed Nut Bars

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|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 ½ cups flour | 2 cups mixed nuts |
| 1 tsp salt | 1 pkg 6 oz butterscotch chips |
| ¾ cup brown sugar | 2 Tbsp butter |
| ½ cup butter | ½ cup white corn syrup |
| Cut butter thoroughly, combine & press into 9 x 13" pan. | Melt chips, butter & syrup over low heat. |
| Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool | Spread nuts over baked crust, pour mixture over top of nuts. |
| | Bake another 10 minutes at 350 degrees. |

I got this recipe from my neighbor, who thought it was so good that she put the recipe up for a silent auction fundraiser, along with samples of the bars. It was a big hit and the lucky winner not only got a great recipe, but donated a pretty respectable amount to the event. Now don't tell Melody that I just gave it away. I told her I wanted to share it with a few of my favorite people. Enjoy!



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