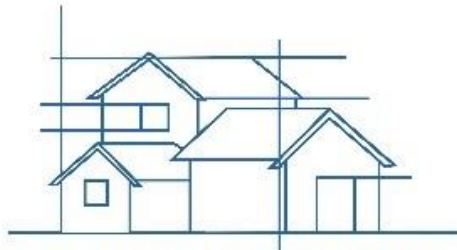


WOOD ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - WETT



TANNER'S CROSSING
PLANNING DISTRICT

What is a WETT Inspection?

A WETT inspection, short for Wood Energy Technology Transfer, is a thorough inspection of all types of wood burning appliances. This includes:

- fireplaces,
- fireplace inserts,
- wood stoves,
- pellet stoves, and
- outside boilers.

Fire is always a threat to a home and a WETT Inspection can provide “peace of mind” for the homeowner. Many insurance companies now require a WETT inspection prior to issuing a Home Policy.

Many older homes and cottages have Wood Burning Appliances that will not meet the requirements of a WETT Certified Inspection. Older wood stoves may not be certified by a rating agency such as UL, ULC or Warnock Hersey (WH-ETL). This means that the minimum clearance to combustibles for an uncertified stove is automatically 48 inches. So, unless your wood stove is in a basement you will probably be out of luck.

A WETT inspection is an inspection carried out by an inspector who is WETT Certified.

What type of WETT-certified professional do I need?

WETT primarily certifies individuals in the following categories:

SITE Basic Inspector—these are individuals who can perform a level 1 inspection.

Technician—these are individuals who can install or perform maintenance on wood-burning appliances. They can also perform a level 1 inspection, or a level 2 inspection when an appliance or major system component is replaced.

Chimney Sweep—these are individuals who can clean and maintain your entire wood-burning system, including sweeping the chimney. They can also perform a level 1 inspection.

SITE Comprehensive Inspector—these are individuals who can perform level 1, 2, or 3 inspections. These individuals are also technicians and/or sweeps.

What kind of SITE inspections do I need?

SITE is a set of standardized guidelines and procedures that are recommended by WETT for the inspection and/or evaluation of wood-burning systems.

SITE outlines three levels of inspection:

An inspector will be able to help you assess which level is required based on your needs. For most insurance and real estate inspections, a level 1 is sufficient. If, during the inspection, the inspector sees signs of concern, a level 2 or 3 may be recommended.

Level 1 Inspection - Readily Accessible

Readily Accessible can be described as a quickly or easily reached for inspection. It would not require the use of special tools for opening or the removal of any panel, door or other covering; nor would it require the use of ladders. A tape measure, light, mirror, camera, magnifying glass and

binoculars are the typical tools required to perform this type of inspection.

Level 2 Inspection - Accessible

Accessible can be described as reachable for the purpose of inspection/evaluation. Access could first require the moving or removal of a panel, door or other covering and could require the use of ladders and common tools such as a screwdriver, wrench, hammer or related service tools/equipment. Access does not require any invasive action to the building or property.

Level 3 Inspection—Concealed Accessibility

Concealed Accessibility can be described as accessible only by invasive means. This may require the removal of constructed (but not structural) areas of the system or building to gain access for the purpose of implementing a level 3 inspection/evaluation. It may also require the use of specialty tools and equipment.

What requires a WETT Inspection?

Below is a list of items that may be inspected by your WETT Certified Inspector on a Wood Stove, Pellet Stove or Fireplace inspection:

- Chimney & Cap
- Chimney Liner or Flue Tiles
- Smoke Chamber
- Wood Stove or Fireplace Damper
- Firebox & Firebricks/Linings
- Hearth & Floor Protection
- Mantle & Clearances to Combustible Walls & Ceilings
- Heat Shield Construction for Reduced Clearances
- Proper Flue Pipe Installation & Venting
- Clearance to Combustible Exterior Items

- Chimney Foundations & Masonry
- Overall Condition of the Woodstove, Fireplace and its Chimney

Does My Chimney Require a Liner?

If you are installing a fireplace insert, then your chimney requires a stainless-steel liner to be installed. Also, liners maybe installed when there is damage to flue tile.

How Often Should I Clean My Chimney?

To be sure that all your systems are in working order and operating as they should, it is recommended that homeowners get an annual chimney inspection. Most homeowners opt to have a chimney cleaning done every year as well, especially if they use their fireplace on a regular basis. Other venting systems connected to furnaces and stoves should also be cleaned on a regular basis to maintain safer operation.

What is a Fireplace Insert?

Fireplace Inserts are essentially a well-designed wood stove that fits inside a fireplace firebox, which transforms the fireplace into a viable source of heat. Fireplace inserts are typically installed inside masonry fireplaces.

What is Creosote?

Creosote is the substance which is deposited in the chimney whenever a fire is burned, though some fires result in more creosote deposits than others, and is an unavoidable part of using a fireplace. Creosote is black, sooty, and tar-like; and it is dangerous enough that minimizing the amount of creosote in your chimney is an important safety consideration. If too much creosote builds up in your chimney, there is a much

greater possibility of a chimney fire, which is extremely dangerous and often leads to deadly house fires.

Can I Reduce Clearance to Combustibles?

Yes, clearances to combustibles can be reduced by up to 67% using an approved method and material to construct a heat shield.

Can I get a WETT inspection or WETT certificate?

A WETT inspection is the inspection of a solid-fuel-burning system, performed by a WETT-certified professional, for compliance with applicable codes and standards. Appliances cannot be WETT certified.

What kind of report will I receive?

The report details the areas in which the installation meets or does not meet the requirements of the manufacturer's installation instructions and the appropriate codes. An installation is either compliant with the relevant building and installation codes or it is not.

As part of an inspection, you will receive a written inspection report. WETT provides members with recommended inspection forms for their use. Members may use these or they may have different formats that they use. Typically, most level-1 inspection forms will capture information that includes appliance type, certification markings, clearances and if the installation meets the relevant codes. Given the detailed nature of level 2 and 3 inspections, additional information may be captured.

For how long is an inspection report valid?

The nature of any inspection report is that it records what was seen at the date and time of the inspection. After completing an inspection report and leaving the premises, the inspector has no control over, nor knowledge of, any changes to a solid-fuel-burning system. Consequently, an inspection report can only warrant what was seen and recorded at the time of the inspection.

What is the cost of an inspection?

WETT's authority does not include regulating how much WETT-certified professionals charge for their services. These questions can be asked when you call to arrange for an inspection. Pricing may vary depending on the level of inspection required, travel distance for inspectors and documentation provided.

How to find an inspector?

In order to find a WETT-certified member in your area, please go to our website (www.wettinc.ca) and use the *Find a WETT Certified Professional* search feature.

Note: It is important to note that WETT certifies individuals, not companies. Companies may advertise that they have WETT-certified people on staff. When contacting companies, you should make it clear that you are looking for a WETT-certified individual to complete work on your behalf. WETT professionals are issued photo ID cards, which include a sticker. This sticker must be valid for the current year.

Contact Us

Tanner's Crossing Planning District

PO Box 1072
2nd Floor, Civic Centre
103 Main Street South
Minnedosa, MB
R0J 1E0
Phone: 204.867.2364
Cell: 204.868.5973

Email: tcpd@mymts.net

www.discoverminnedosa.com/business/planning-development/

Find Us on Facebook 

Or contact the member jurisdictions of Tanner's Crossing Planning District:

Town of Minnedosa

103 Main Street South
Minnedosa, MB
R0J 1E0
Phone: 204.867.2727

R.M. of Minto-Odanah

49 Main Street South
Minnedosa, MB
R0J 1E0
Phone: 204.867.3282