

## How to Properly Clean a Rumford Fireplace



There is not a lot of information on how to properly clean a Rumford fireplace. However, you don't always have to have a professional, you can clean it yourself! Let's take a look at Rumford fireplaces and how to properly clean them.

## What is a Rumford Fireplace?

A Rumford fireplace dates back to the 18th century and is built using masonry in a way that is designed to give you the best view of the fire, maximizing the radiant heat, minimizing the heated air loss and all the while still being clean burning. Their design in having a narrow throat draws the smoke back rather than mixing with clean air in order to provide a hotter fire for longer. They use fuel in the form of small batches of wood or large logs depending on the size of the fireplace. It is a beautiful fireplace that stands the test of time designed to provide warm, radiant heat.

## Benefits of a Rumford Fireplace

A Rumford fireplace has been a favorite of many for centuries because of its many benefits. There are a few benefits to using a Rumford fireplace over other types, including:

- Clean burning
- Best view
- Narrow throat for hotter, longer-lasting fires more efficiency less loss of heated room air.
- Radiant heat, versus heating the air

## Rumford Fireplace Maintenance



Maintenance is required for Rumford Fireplaces, just like most things in your home. For your Rumford fireplace to stay in its best shape, there is some general maintenance that you'll need to do such as:

- Removing ashes to a container with a tight-fitting lid before they get too deep
- Building vertical tipi fires with only dry, seasoned wood

## How to Clean a Rumford Fireplace

Due to the narrow throat mentioned above, cleaning a Rumford fireplace can be a bit different than cleaning other fireplace models. Let's take a look at how to properly clean a Rumford fireplace.

## **General Cleaning**

Rumford fireplaces shouldn't smoke but if you do happen to have smoke stains on the surround you'll need to know [how to clean brick](#). To clean brick, mix equal parts vinegar and water to spray on the surface and then use a scrub brush or sponge to scrub.

## **Checking the Damper**

The damper is usually made of cast iron or heavy steel. There are several different types depending on the size of your Rumford. Every season you should always make sure that your damper opens and closes properly. If not, you may need to clean out any debris that could prevent the damper from closing.

## **Clean the Throat and Smoke Chamber**

Like the flue above, the small throat of the Rumford and the smoke chamber above either damper will need to be cleaned once a year or so with a brush to remove the small amount of soot that builds up. You'll likely need to use a chimney sweep professional with a smaller, flexible brush that can get through the 3-4 inch throat opening. If they are not able to get through the throat from inside the house, they may need to clean it from above by going into the roof. We recommend a professional for this.

## **Chimney Cleaning**

Since Rumford fireplaces are so clean-burning, they typically don't produce much creosote. However, once a year the chimney should be inspected by a professional to check for build-up who can also give you tips on building proper fires and answer questions that may arise.

## Learn More About Rumford Fireplaces



Rumford fireplaces are a great addition to any home. To learn more about them, visit the [Buckley Rumford Company](#).

*Max Shafer is a contributor to the [Innovative Building Materials](#) blog. He is a content writer for the construction and home improvement industries with an interest in landscaping, outdoor remodeling, and interior design. Max is focused on educating homeowners, contractors, and architects on innovative materials and methods of construction that increase property value, improve sustainability, and create a warm and welcoming ambiance.*