



# Hints For The Home

## How To Keep The Home Fires Burning

(NAPSA)—When your family and friends come to your house, a great way to greet them can be with a fire on the hearth.

### Hot Tips On Fireplaces

Here are a few hints on how:

**1.** Proper fireplace maintenance and chimney cleaning prevent fires, prevent heat loss and save money, so have a professional service company inspect the fireplace damper and sweep the chimney annually.

**2.** Test the chimney draft before lighting the fire. Make sure the damper is open, then ignite a small piece of paper in the fireplace, put it out to smolder and see if smoke goes up the chimney.

**3.** Position the firewood properly on the grate in the firebox:

- Place a large log in the back.
- Put a medium log in the front to prevent the wood from rolling out.

- Use small to medium logs between the back and front logs.

- The closer the fire is to the front of the fireplace, the more likely you'll have smoke leak.

- Keep a moderate bed of ashes in the firebox at all times so the fire burns more slowly and evenly and uses less wood.

**4.** Understand firewood measurements. Firewood is often sold in bulk by the cord or rick.

- A cord measures 4' deep x 4' high x 8' long.

- A rick, or face cord, measures 2' deep x 4' high x 8' long.

**5.** All wood should be split.

**6.** Using hardwood such as oak and hickory that has been seasoned at least a year prevents sparks and keeps the chimney cleaner. Softwood such as pine and cedar burn very fast, tend to pop loudly and can throw sparks out of the fireplace.

**7.** The woodpile should be kept dry. Wet or green wood will smolder and not produce a blazing fire.

These tips come from Jeff Smith, vice president of Facilities



**The warm welcome of a blazing fireplace can be easy to achieve at home and easy to find in some stores and restaurants.**

& Construction at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. Since the first one opened in 1969, there has always been a fire in the fireplace and a woodpile out back of every store and restaurant from October through April when the temperature is below 50 degrees, so even if you don't have a fireplace at home, you can still bask in the warmth of one there.

### Learn More

To find out further facts about Cracker Barrel, visit [www.crackerbarrel.com](http://www.crackerbarrel.com) or call (800) 333-9566. To find out how the company restores and preserves the artifacts on display in its stores, visit [http://crackerbarrel.tekgrouppweb.com/section\\_display.cfm?section\\_id=90](http://crackerbarrel.tekgrouppweb.com/section_display.cfm?section_id=90). For more information about fire safety, visit [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/heating/fireplace.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/heating/fireplace.shtm).

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