



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 To Save Money and Make Your Home More Comfortable At The Same Time

You pay good money to heat your home. It's a shame that between 8% and 30% of that heat goes right up the chimney unnecessarily. Over the years, your fireplace damper will cost you thousands of dollars in heat lost.

Cast iron dampers leak air, and steel dampers leak even worse because they warp from the heat of the fireplace. The damper in your fireplace is one of the most energy-inefficient areas of your home.

Not only does the fireplace damper cost you huge sums of money - it's also one of the major sources of drafts in your home. Cold air moving across the floor is uncomfortable- and it makes you want to turn the thermostat higher!

Here's the solution: A Top Sealing Damper mounts on top of your chimney, with a cable running down the flue to a handle you'll operate from below. Then it closes tightly when your fireplace isn't in use. These long-lasting stainless steel dampers make an airtight seal- not like the damper you have now. This prevents warm air from escaping up your chimney, and prevents cold air from pouring down your chimney.

Here's another wonderful benefit. In the spring and summer, many fireplaces have a terrible odor problem, especially when the air conditioning is on. Even after cleaning and deodorizing this can still be a problem. If air can't come down the chimney, you'll virtually eliminate chimney odor!

Start enjoying these benefits and saving money now. Give us a call and we'll install a Top Sealing Damper for you right away.

I have heard from several of our great customers letting me know that you are enjoying the recipes that have been on the back of the newsletters. Most people are so good about sharing recipes that have become their families' favorites. This one came from a young lady named Jenny. She said her Grandma always makes it for special occasions. If you have a family specialty that you would like to share, email it to me at SweepDreams@charter.net

#### Really Easy Blueberry Dessert

- 2 packages graham crackers crushed
- 1 1/2 sticks butter, melted
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1/4 cup sugar (more of less depending on your taste)
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 can blueberry pie filling

Mix melted butter and graham cracker crumbs. Press into bottom of 9x13 pan.  
Whip cream till peaks form, add sugar and spread over crumb crust. Sprinkle miniature marshmallows over whipped cream. Spread blueberry filling over marshmallows.  
Refrigerate several hours or overnight. Cut into squares to serve.

This is a fun and easy thing to bring to one of those summer pot luck get-togethers. Just remember to keep refrigerated until serving, or the whipped cream will melt.

#### New Email Address

Of course you have all heard about Charter taking over Astound, so we had no choice but to change our email address. If you want to contact us by email our new address is SweepDreams@charter.net



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## Brainerd Area, Here We Come!

Many of our customers own cabins, and we get several requests a year to sweep chimneys in the Brainerd lakes area, but many people decide not to go forward with it because we are forced to charge such high time and mileage fees to drive so far out of our normal service area. In response to this, we have decided to set up several weekends throughout the summer to service the Brainerd area with no additional fees. In order to make this possible, we will need to fill our schedule so our techs will be kept busy while they stay up there. (No time for fishing... Well maybe a little bit!) If you have a cabin in the Brainerd lakes area give us a call to schedule a cleaning and inspection... because your cabin's chimney needs maintenance too!

## How To Destroy Creosote, Increase Your Burning Safety, and Reduce Fireplace and Chimney Odors

Fireplaces are fun to burn, but they should be easy to forget about when you don't need them. But sometimes that nasty smell just won't let you forget.

Because creosote clings to the surfaces inside your fireplace and chimney, the first thing to do of course is sweep as much out as possible. Then you can install a top-sealing damper so air from outdoors can't come down the flue; this is also an effective way to save between 8-30% on your heating bill.

In addition to these obvious measures, you can treat your chimney with a creosote modifier. ACS™ is an industry favorite because not only does it reduce existing creosote deposits to a harmless ash, but it also helps prevent further deposits. Less creosote means less likelihood of a potentially disastrous chimney fire.

Daily use of ACS™ during the heating season vastly improves heat transfer efficiency. Only 1/32" of carbon insulates the same as 2" of asbestos. Most wood stoves have much more than that inside them. You'll get more heat from less wood.

Using ACS™ throughout the year and then liberally at the end of the heating season will reduce those off-season chimney odors. ACS™ kills odors because it oxidizes the tars and oils in creosote.

ACS™ changes creosote so it doesn't smell nearly as bad and is easier to remove. In fact, if you have "glazed creosote", hard, shiny and almost-impossible-to-remove, ACS™ will cure that problem too. It's a "chimney wonder drug."

This year, be sure start treating your chimney with ACS™. You'll love the difference it makes.

## Thanks for the Letter!

We hear these types of comments from people time after time when installing woodstoves and fireplace inserts.

Tom,  
I wanted to let you know how much we are enjoying our new wood stove. I know when we talked about options for wood heat, you strongly recommended the Napoleon stove. I still remember my reaction when you took the stove out of the crate...it seemed so small, and I thought to myself, "that will never heat our cabin"! Well, to my surprise it heats up the cabin so much that we often have to open the windows to cool it down! This was our first year of having our cabin winterized, and it sure kept our energy costs low (along with making the cabin "cozy"!

Sincerely,  
Melody Peterson



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## Why Deteriorating Masonry Is A Problem, And What You Can Do About It

Building with brick is a good decision. Brick is not only durable, but also a very attractive building material. Like everything though, masonry requires maintenance, and if you don't maintain it, you wind up paying extra.

Water is a masonry surface's worst enemy. This is true for chimneys, brick walls, or even walkways. Bricks are porous so they drink in moisture. In the winter, the water freezes and damages the bricks from the inside. This is why you see bricks with the faces popped off on so many houses.

In the "olden days," (75-150 years ago) bricks were made differently and were more durable. Unfortunately, modern bricks are much more likely to have a problem. Another cause of cracks in bricks and mortar is the normal settling and movement of the house.

Damaged masonry is not only unsightly, but also an accelerating problem. What begins as a small crack invariably grows into a larger a crack. This can lead to water damaging the walls and ceilings near the chimney. Ultimately the very structure is weakened to the point of collapse. This is particularly true for chimneys because they are often stand-alone structures.

After years of living with an unattractive problem, you will finally be faced with the expensive full-scale job of rebuilding.

Be careful not to allow anyone to waterproof your chimney with a water sealant, which will not allow the masonry to breathe. Masonry must be allowed to wick water out from inside, or it will be trapped and speed up deterioration. All our waterproofing materials are breathable, which means it keeps water out, but still allows the brick to get rid of moisture from inside the chimney.

You can easily and inexpensively prevent damage or dramatically slow the growth of smaller existing problems. We can waterproof your chimneys or other brick surfaces with a long-lasting water repellent (several years) at a small fraction of what repairs would cost. We'll be happy assess your situation and explain your options to you.

If you already have damage that needs repair, we'll be happy to assess your situation and help you decide what you should do next. And rest assured, if we repair damage for you, we'll waterproof it so your repairs will last a long, long time.

## Words of Wisdom

*"You can't plow a field by turning it over in your mind." - Irish Proverb*

You're probably asking yourself, what does that have to do with chimneys?

Let me tell you. When I saw this saying in a magazine, I had to cut it out and use it as incentive to attain my goals. Since that time I have accomplished more than I ever dreamed possible.

I don't claim to have tackled all of my goals, but one by one, my list is getting shorter.

I hear people say, "I wish I had a comfortable, energy saving woodstove or fireplace insert, but they are so costly."

Start saving money on your energy bill this coming heating season with one of our beautiful Napoleon Fireplace Inserts or Woodstoves. The money you save on your energy bill every month, six months out of the year will pay for the investment in no time. Plus, I feel really great when we get our heat bill every month and it is a grand total of eight dollars!!! When the north winds blow our motto is, "Throw another log on the fire!" Ahhh...I love winter.



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