



Established 1906

W T Knowles & Sons Limited

Clay Pipe & Chimney Pot Manufacturers

Thatched Roofs - Fire safety

Fire Safety is a primary consideration with thatched roofs. Care of the chimney, the fuel which is burnt and how it is burnt is therefore paramount. Common sense and attention to detail are important factors in reducing the risk to thatched roofs from multi-fuel or wood burning stoves and open fires.

Summary of Key Safety Details

- Ensure the top of the chimney pots are at least 1.8 metres above the thatch. The height requirement is to allow for any sparks/embers to preferably die out before they exit the chimney or be ejected away from the thatch.
Refer to Building regulations Approved Document J – Section 2
- Masonry chimneys should be inspected at least once every 3 years by a chimney engineer to ensure the liner, brickwork and mortar pointing is good. The risk of damaged chimney structure and pointing may allow hot gases and embers to pass through gaps to the thatch.
- Appropriate flue liners should comply with the Regulations depending on the fire below the chimney. Professional advice should always be sought.
- Control flue/chimney temperature. Too high a temperature speeds up flue gases and increases risk of ejecting burning material. Too low a temperature increases soot and tar in the flue and the potential for a chimney fire.
- The chimney should be swept at least twice a year, preferably in February/March and again in October. Keep stove baffles clean.
- Spark arrestors are not recommended. This is because they can become clogged (either naturally or through lack of maintenance) restricting free flow of combustion gases and also becoming a fire hazard in themselves.
- Most insurance companies will require notice of any works carried out on the flues and chimneys in thatched properties

Useful Further Advice may be obtained from:

Thatch Advice Centre

www.thatchadvicecentre.co.uk

HETAS Limited

www.hetas.co.uk

National Society of Master Thatchers Ltd

www.nsmtltd.co.uk

Solid Fuel Technology

www.solidfuel.co.uk