



# **A FLAMING FIRE ON A CHILLY NIGHT**

**Nothing could be more enjoyable than spending an evening next to your hearth with flames crackling as you spend time relaxing with your friends or family. Fireplaces are great for keeping you warm during the cold winter months. Heating your main living space with a fireplace can reduce your monthly bills by letting you turn down your thermostat while still staying comfortable.**

## **Before starting a fire in your fireplace there are several things to remember:**

**Make sure the fireplace is clean and in safe condition. Fireplaces should be professionally cleaned and inspected annually.**

**The screen should be in good condition.**

**The grate should be clean.**

**A set of tools is needed - brush, poker, shovel**

**Firewood should be seasoned and should have no more than 20% moisture content, allowing it to burn more effectively than unseasoned wood.**

**Greenwood or freshly cut wood can have over 35% moisture content. For the fire to burn the moisture needs to vaporize. This robs some of the energy from the fire and causes a smoky, crackling fire.**

**Do not burn pine wood (including Christmas trees)**

## **Starting the fire:**

**Lay newspapers between grate**

**Place kindling or fatwood close together over the paper so they will heat each other. Arrange the sticks in a tent shape. When the paper burns away, the kindling remains standing, allowing plenty of airflow to feed the fire before they begin to fall over.**

**Light base.**

**Open the damper**

**When the kindling is burning nicely, you can begin very gradually adding larger pieces of wood to the fire in a grid pattern across the kindling, allowing airflow to fan the flames.**

**You need to gradually increase the size of the logs that you are adding, ensuring that each piece is burning well before adding more.**

**When the fire is sufficiently large, you will be able to more or less toss in wood randomly and it will burn.**

**It is important to pay attention to airflow, ensuring that you are adding wood in a rough grid pattern and that your dampers are opened sufficiently to keep smoke and resulting creosote to a minimum.**

**It should take about 15 minutes to get the fire started.**

## **Distinguishing the Fire:**

**Let the fire burn down**

**Keep damper open till morning**

**Do not dispose of ashes in plastic bags**

**At the Garden Center we sell firewood bundles under 1/2 cord ranging from \$20-\$65. We have a variety of fireplace screens, tools, racks and kindling wood. Firewood is delivered free of charge in Bergen County in 1/2 and full cords. It can be either dumped or stacked.**

**Go to our website: (<http://dennywiggersgardenscapes.com>) for more information on our products and services.**