

Mendota Gas Fireplace Checklist³

Information to Consider When Selecting a Gas Fireplace or Insert

- Size:** Choosing a size is based on the amount of heat the fireplace needs to generate, the desired aesthetic appearance of the fire or the opening of an existing fireplace for an insert.
- Location:** A gas fireplace can be installed in any area of the home—in the center of the room, under a window or anywhere a gas line is available.
- Venting:** Mendota recommends using a direct-vented unit that vents through the wall behind the fireplace. This is the safest, most efficient option. For fireplace inserts, a chimney liner is required.
- Installation:** Mendota recommends using a certified professional installer to ensure safe and reliable installation of a gas fireplace. In addition to assessing the construction of the house, the professional will make sure that the installation meets all local and state codes.
- Maintenance:** Gas fireplaces are clean burning and require little maintenance. Mendota recommends that a gas fireplace be professionally serviced at least once a year to ensure top performance and aesthetic appearance. A qualified professional inspects the burner, fan, venting, pilot light and thermostat, and even cleans the glass. We also recommend that all vents be inspected on an annual basis by a chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America. In addition, you may want to consider installing a carbon monoxide detector. They are an inexpensive way to put your mind at ease about carbon monoxide levels.
- Fuel Requirements:** Natural gas and propane are the fuels available for gas fireplaces. Natural gas is the most widely used, while propane is often used where natural gas is not available.
- Average Cost:** The price of the unit itself is only part of the total cost of owning a gas fireplace. Other requirements include the cost of the chimney and/or installation, annual fuel costs and annual maintenance.

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³ Source: Adapted from “Gas Fireplaces Fact Sheet” and “Fireplace Inserts Fact Sheet”, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, www.hpba.org