

Winter has finally arrived! Somehow it seems fitting to talk about fireplaces. Many of us have fireplaces that are wood burning. But, have you considered a gas fireplace? The gas fireplace industry has matured and the options for consumers are phenomenal. There are fireplaces made for virtually every room in the house, inside and out.

There are many things to consider before heading to the fireplace showroom: location, size, efficiency, decorative or heat rated, ignition system, venting or non-venting, log and ember technology, glass, screens, fronts, and accessories. So, what kind of fireplace is right for your house?

Selecting a location for a fireplace is a good place to start. Then, make a decision about heat. Fireplaces are rated by the number of BTUs (British Thermal Units) they put off. If you want ambiance and limited heat select a unit with a low BTU number. And, of course, the opposite is true if you want the fireplace to heat the space in which it will be installed.

Venting is also important. B-Vent fireplaces must exit the structure vertically. Because of this they are generally not good in basements. Direct Vent fireplaces have the option of venting horizontally or vertically. They can be installed just about anywhere in the home. Vent Free fireplaces are also available, but their use is limited to specific applications.

When it comes to aesthetics, the choices are immense. The usual complaint is gas fireplaces don't look real. The industry has addressed this issue by developing units with ceramic interiors which look like fire brick. They have also developed units which can be completely concealed by stone or tile. These two things together give the finished product the look of a true wood burning fireplace.

Take a look at this website for ideas www.heatilator.com and visit the local showrooms to see the finished product.