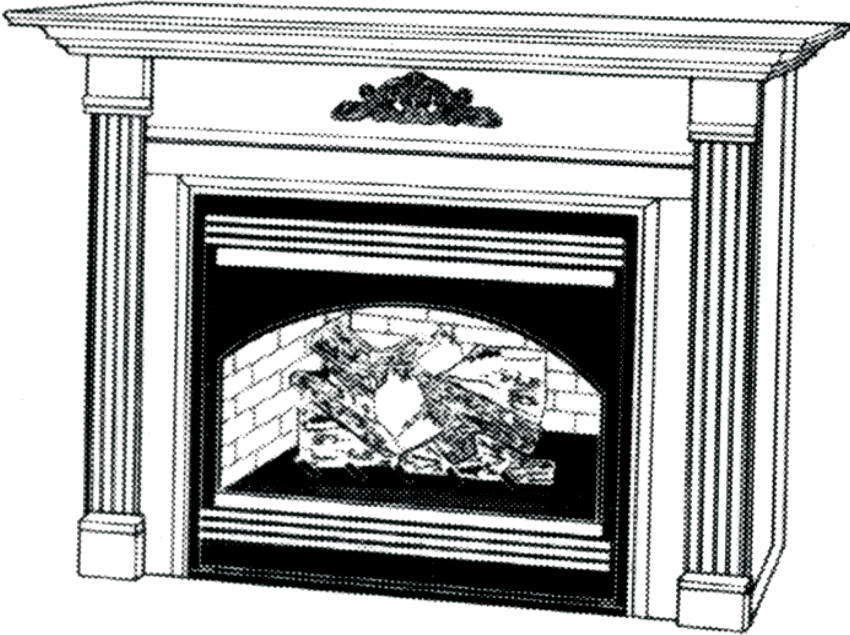


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Zero-Clearance Fireplace



Unsafe installation of zero clearance fireplaces are common due to poor connections between components, failure to provide insulation where required, provision of insulation where none is allowed, and/or failure to maintain proper clearance (even zero-clearance fireplaces require clearance from some surfaces).

Metal fireboxes should be kept one-half inch to one inch away from masonry. The gap should be filled with noncombustible insulation. Where the gap is not provided, the metal box may buckle as it expands during a fire. In some case, the masonry will crack requiring repair or replacement.

It is often difficult to see these problems once the system has been installed. This type of fireplace should always be noted in the inspection report for future reference.

