

Chimney Inspection Checklist: Masonry Chase and Fireplace

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Property

INSPECTION DATE

INSPECTED BY

PROPERTY ADDRESS

OCCUPANCY

CHIMNEY TYPE

FIREPLACE OR APPLIANCE

FUEL IN USE

INSPECTION SCOPE

HOW THE CHIMNEY WAS VIEWED

WEATHER DURING THE WALK

☐ Owner or agent present

Exterior masonry and chase

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Chimney or chase type identified on all sides you can see	☐	☐	☐	
No leaning, offset, or separation of the stack from the house	☐	☐	☐	
Mortar joints: no widespread missing, washed-out, or open joints	☐	☐	☐	
Brick or stone: no loose units, heavy spalling, or cracked clay	☐	☐	☐	
Factory-built chase: siding intact, not pulling, no exposed sheathing	☐	☐	☐	
Chase or masonry-to-wall joint not open to weather	☐	☐	☐	
Vines, trees, and stored items not holding moisture against the stack	☐	☐	☐	
No widespread white salt crust that suggests ongoing water in the masonry	☐	☐	☐	

Cap, crown, and termination

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Masonry crown or cap present and sloped to shed water	☐	☐	☐	
Crown not cracked through to the masonry below	☐	☐	☐	
Drip edge and a bond break or caulk joint at the flue liner, if you can see the top	☐	☐	☐	
Rain cap or spark arrestor present and not blocked	☐	☐	☐	
Chimney meets the 3-2-10 height rule, or you recorded a measurement	☐	☐	☐	
Flue liner, if masonry, visible above the crown and not flush-buried in mortar	☐	☐	☐	
Factory-built: listed cap in place; decorative shroud listed for that system if a shroud is used	☐	☐	☐	

Tall chimney, if present: stay or brace not loose, rusted through, or pulling masonry

☐☐☐

Roof flashing

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Base or step flashing present at the chimney-to-roof joint	☐	☐	☐	
Counterflashing present on masonry, in a reglet or equivalent, or noted as sealant-dependent	☐	☐	☐	
Flashing metal not rusted through, pulled, or open at laps	☐	☐	☐	
Cricket present where the chimney is wide on the uphill side and does not hit the ridge	☐	☐	☐	
Cricket, if present: flashed and counterflashed like the other chimney sides	☐	☐	☐	
Kickout or similar diverter where a chimney sidewall meets a lower roof, if that condition exists	☐	☐	☐	
Attic or soffit below the chimney: no active drip, dark sheathing, or rusty nails at the penetration	☐	☐	☐	

Damper

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Damper present in the fireplace or chimney that vents it	☐	☐	☐	
Manually operated damper opens and closes	☐	☐	☐	
Damper opens fully enough for smoke to pass, not a jammed slit	☐	☐	☐	
Damper plate, rod, and handle: no broken welds, missing parts, or rust-through	☐	☐	☐	
Masonry damper or throat not obviously sitting in the opening	☐	☐	☐	
Top-sealing damper, if present: cable free, plate seats, cap not packed with debris	☐	☐	☐	

Firebox, lintel, and visible smoke chamber

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Firebox lining: no loose firebrick, missing mortar, or holes to framing	☐	☐	☐	
Firebox floor intact: no collapsed hearth slab or open ash pit into wood	☐	☐	☐	
Lintel above the opening: noncombustible, bearing, not sagging or burned through	☐	☐	☐	
Smoke chamber and smoke shelf, if visible from the firebox: no broken parging or open brick	☐	☐	☐	
Ash dump and cover, if present: cover fits, dump not dumping into a wood cavity	☐	☐	☐	
Insert, stove, or gas logs, if present: left in place; visual condition only	☐	☐	☐	
No unused open thimble, cleanout, or pipe hole in the firebox or chimney breast	☐	☐	☐	
Glass doors or screens, if present: not required to be tested; note broken glass or a missing screen	☐	☐	☐	

Hearth, extension, and surround

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Masonry hearth of concrete or masonry, or a listed factory-built hearth extension	☐	☐	☐	_____
No joint separation between hearth, extension, firebox, and facing	☐	☐	☐	_____
Masonry hearth extension depth and side width, if you measured, or obviously short	☐	☐	☐	_____
Visible hearth and extension thickness not paper-thin tile on wood next to a masonry firebox	☐	☐	☐	_____
Facing, mantel beam, and surround attached, not pulling away from the firebox	☐	☐	☐	_____
Raised hearth, if present: no cracked cantilever and no storage of combustibles in the void	☐	☐	☐	_____

Nearby combustibles and detectors

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Combustible mantel or trim not in the fireplace opening and not scorched	☐	☐	☐	_____
No firewood, paper, or flammable liquids stored in the firebox or against the chimney	☐	☐	☐	_____
Attic, closet, or chase interior, if viewed: wood framing not tight against a hot chimney face	☐	☐	☐	_____
Factory-built chimney in an attic, if present: insulation not packed against the pipe; shield present if you can see one	☐	☐	☐	_____
Smoke detector in the same room as the fireplace	☐	☐	☐	_____
Carbon monoxide detector in the same room as the fireplace	☐	☐	☐	_____
Rugs, baskets, and furniture not overlapping a too-short hearth onto combustible floor	☐	☐	☐	_____

Visible liner and cleanout

Item	OK	Defect	N/A	Notes
Masonry chimney appears lined where you can see it from an existing opening	☐	☐	☐	_____
Visible liner: no cracked, offset, or missing tiles at the opening you used	☐	☐	☐	_____
No nest, debris, collapsed tile, or heavy blockage visible from the opening	☐	☐	☐	_____
No heavy, shiny creosote or combustible deposits on the surfaces you can see	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cleanout door and frame, if present: close, not rusted through, noncombustible	☐	☐	☐	_____
Cleanout, if present: near the base of the flue, not dumping into a living space	☐	☐	☐	_____
Furnace or stove connector into this chimney, if present: supported, not loose in the thimble	☐	☐	☐	_____
If more than one flue is in the stack, each visible flue identified and not obviously crossed	☐	☐	☐	_____

Findings and sign-off

FINDINGS

ACTION

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE

OWNER OR AGENT SIGNATURE

TIME SIGNED

Reference only. Verify against local codes, a licensed inspector or a qualified contractor.