

Manufactured Home & Mobilehome Fireplace and Fireplace Stove FAQs

The following information addresses aftermarket solid fuel-burning (*wood*) and gas-fueled fireplace and fireplace stove appliance installations in manufactured homes (MH) and mobilehomes.

Q1. *Is it acceptable to install a fireplace or fireplace stove in my manufactured home (MH) or mobilehome?*

A1. Solid fuel-burning factory-built fireplaces and fireplace stoves may be installed in an MH if installed in accordance with Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (MHCSS) section 3280.709(g) **only** when the fireplace or stove is listed for installation in an MH.

Q2. *What about the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning?*

A2. Solid fuel-burning factory-built fireplaces and fireplace stoves are exempted by MHCSS section 3280.709(d) from the complete separation of the fuel-burning appliance products of combustion (carbon monoxide) from the interior atmosphere of the MH. However, factory-built fireplaces and fireplace stoves are prohibited in a sleeping room as provided by MHCSS section 3280.709(g)(iv).

Q3. *I was informed that a gas log lighter or decorative gas log burner may not be installed in my factory-built fireplace or fireplace stove, even though the fireplace store representative said it is acceptable. Why is this?*

A3. Solid fuel-burning fireplaces and fireplace stoves cannot be converted for use of a gas igniter or decorative gas log burner **even though** the fireplace instructions or listing may allow the conversion. The MHCSS permits only solid fuel-burning fireplaces or fireplace stoves; other forms of fuel, such as natural gas or LPG, are not permitted. This is because the doors of a wood burning fireplace or fireplace stove do not provide an adequate seal and may be opened or leak while the gas log lighter is in operation. Converting these fireplaces and fireplace stoves allows the products of combustion (carbon monoxide) to mix with the interior atmosphere of the MH, which results in violation of federal requirements. See Q2.

Q4. *Can I convert my wood burning factory-built fireplace or fireplace stove to a gas-fueled fireplace appliance using a kit?*

A4. A solid fuel-burning fireplace or fireplace stove may, in certain instances, be converted to a gas-fueled fireplace appliance (gas heating appliances designed to look like wood-burning fireplaces other than those discussed in Q3 above). The conversion must be in accordance with both the listing instructions and the MHCSS, and must ensure complete separation of the products of combustion (carbon monoxide) from the interior atmosphere of the MH. The conversion "kit" also must be listed for use with that appliance and approved for installation in an MH.

Q5. *Can a gas-fueled fireplace appliance be installed in an MH or in an MH sleeping room?*

A5. Gas-fueled “fireplace appliances” (gas heating appliances designed to look like wood-burning fireplaces other than those discussed in Q3 above) may be installed in an MH, and in an MH sleeping room. The fireplace appliance must be listed for installation in an MH, installed in accordance with the terms of its listing, and ensure the complete separation of the products of combustion (carbon monoxide) from the interior atmosphere of the MH. This generally involves an air duct routed to the exterior of the MH in order to draw combustion air from the exterior. A direct vent assembly is required that directs products of combustion (carbon monoxide) directly to the exterior of the MH and prohibits exhaust fumes from mixing with the interior air.

Q6. *Is a permit required?*

A6. Yes. The Application for Permit (HCD 415) can be located on the Internet at :
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/codes/mhp/> or you may visit or contact one of HCD’s Field Offices:

Northern Area Field Operations
9342 Tech Center Dr., Suite 550
Sacramento, Ca 95826
(916) 255-2501

Southern Area Field Operations
3737 Main Street
Riverside, Ca 92501
(951) 782-4420