

# TECH TALK

TT-10

November 2004



## Chimney Liner Applications and Limitations

by Dave Fetters

Hart & Cooley manufactures an aluminum, corrugated chimney liner system that is Underwriters Laboratories tested and listed. It may only be used with natural or propane gas-fired Category I appliances listed for use with Type B gas vent. This aluminum is the same alloy and thickness as the liner in our UL-listed B vent. This liner system may not be used with liquid (oil) or solid (wood or coal) fuel-fired equipment.

Our UL listing allows the liner to be installed in new or existing masonry chimneys, as well as existing, but unused, factory-built chimneys and B vents. The liner may touch the interior surfaces of these flues. An incorrectly built masonry chimney

that does not have the required two-inch airspace to combustibles (direct contact instead) may also be used with this liner without further safety concerns because of lack of airspace clearances.

When we introduced the chimney liner product line several years ago, we “required” that masonry chimneys with at least one wall exposed to the outdoors be relined with Type B gas vent instead of chimney liner. At the time, we were being cautious, knowing that in order to vent properly chimney liners must heat up quickly and stay warm. We felt that chimneys exposed to cold air temperatures may become too cold to work properly, resulting in poor venting

and condensation within the liner. However, after several years of experience, we found that proper venting is usually achieved with liners in exposed masonry chimneys. Therefore, although we still “recommend” that Type B gas vent be used in these instances, we don’t “require” it. Insulating chimney liners is another method that helps assure proper venting.

Additional steps to help prevent condensation are:

- Proper sizing using the dedicated sizing tables in our instructions, or the required 20% reduction in capacity if using B vent sizing tables.
- Proper combustion air openings.
- Venting with a draft hood-equipped appliance.
- Using as much B vent as possible to line the vertical portions of an exterior chimney.

As with any chimney or vent product, follow our installation instructions and the applicable codes to ensure a safe and trouble-free installation.



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