

## Your Fireplace, Our Expertise

---

# Why a Clean Chimney Matters More Than You Think

By Valerie Bosanko | A Clean Sweep

Your fireplace or wood stove might be the cozy heart of your home — but when was the last time you had your chimney cleaned?


At **A Clean Sweep**, we do more than sweep soot. We educate homeowners about **why regular chimney and dryer vent maintenance isn't just recommended — it's essential** to the health and safety of your home.

In this post, I'll walk you through the surprising dangers of neglecting your chimney, the difference between a cheap clean and a certified inspection, and how to protect your home year-round.

---

## The Real Risk: Chimney Fires Aren't Just Rare Accidents

You might be shocked to learn that chimney fires are far more common than most people realize.

 According to the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA), there are **over 20,000 chimney fires in the U.S. every year**, often caused by **creosote buildup** — a highly flammable residue that forms when you burn wood.

These fires:

- Can start silently and go unnoticed until the damage is severe.
  - Often **spread to walls or attics** before smoke alarms even go off.
  - Lead to **costly repairs**, insurance claims, or even total home loss.
- 

## What We Do (and What Sets Us Apart)

At A Clean Sweep, we're **certified chimney technicians** trained to spot potential issues **before they become expensive disasters**.

Here's how our process protects your home:

## 1. Creosote Removal

- Creosote builds up in three stages. We use specialized tools to remove **all three levels**, not just surface soot.
- We educate you on **burning cleaner** (e.g., using dry hardwoods) to prevent excess buildup.

## 2. Full System Inspection

- Our **Level 2 inspections** go beyond a visual look. We inspect **interior flue linings, chimney caps, dampers**, and more.
- We check for **animal nests, cracks, moisture damage**, and improper installations — all common but dangerous issues.

## 3. Honest Communication

- No scare tactics. If your chimney looks good, we'll tell you.
- If something needs attention, we **explain it clearly** with photos or videos so you understand exactly what's happening.

---

## The Dryer Vent Danger You're Probably Ignoring

While fireplaces get most of the attention, **dryer vents** are another fire risk that many homeowners overlook.

Why it matters:

- Lint buildup reduces airflow, causing dryers to overheat.
- The **U.S. Fire Administration reports nearly 3,000 home dryer fires per year, with clogged vents as the leading cause.**

What we do:

- We remove lint from **every bend and elbow**, not just the end of the pipe.
- We check for **crushed venting, disconnected lines**, and use high-powered vacuums to ensure a deep clean.

The result? A **faster, safer, more energy-efficient dryer** and peace of mind.

---

## Chimney Cleaning Isn't One-Size-Fits-All

We often hear, "I had someone clean my chimney for \$99." Here's the truth:

- Many low-cost services do a **surface sweep only** — and skip the inspection entirely.
- They may not carry certifications or insurance.
- Without proper inspection, **cracks, corrosion, or chimney cap failures go unnoticed**.

At A Clean Sweep, we believe in doing the job right — with licensed technicians, full inspections, and clear communication every step of the way.

---

## Protect Your Investment and Your Peace of Mind

Your chimney is part of your home's structure. When it's neglected, it can silently cause:

- **Moisture intrusion** that weakens your foundation.
- **Smoke leaks** that compromise indoor air quality.
- **Costly structural damage** from hidden fire or water issues.

Regular maintenance:

- ✓ Extends the life of your chimney system
  - ✓ Ensures your fireplace works efficiently
  - ✓ Prevents house fires and carbon monoxide exposure
  - ✓ Saves money long-term
- 

## We're Here to Help – Not Upsell

As a family-owned and operated company, we understand the importance of trust. That's why we focus on:

- **Education over sales**
- **Transparency over pressure**
- **Certified, experienced service — every time**

Our clients appreciate the honesty and the thoroughness of our work. If your system looks great, we'll give you the all-clear. If there's something you should address, you'll know exactly why.

---

## Is Your Chimney Due for a Cleaning?

If it's been **over a year**, if you **burn wood regularly**, or if your **dryer is taking longer to dry**, it's time to have us take a look.

**Call A Clean Sweep today** for a comprehensive chimney or dryer vent inspection. We'll help you breathe easier, stay safer, and enjoy your home with confidence.