

**W.A. Tolbard**  
**Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC**

413 N. East Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
301-662-2515  
service@watolbard.com

## **Sealing Ceiling/Wall Firestops**

**This applies to ONLY direct vent installations and not wood fireplace installations.**

### **CONSTRUCTING THE FIREPLACE CHASE**

A chase is a vertical box-like structure built to enclose the gas fireplace and/or its vent system. Vertical vents that run on the outside of a building may be, but not required to be, installed inside a chase.

CAUTION: TREATMENT OF FIRESTOP SPACERS AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHASE MAY VARY WITH THE TYPE OF BUILDING. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF LOCAL BUILDING CODES. THEREFORE, YOUR LOCAL BUILDING CODES **MUST** BE CHECKED TO DETERMINE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE STEPS.

Factory-built fireplace chases should be constructed in the manner of all outside walls of the home to prevent cold air drafting problems. The chase should not break the outside building envelope in any manner.

This means that the walls, ceiling, base plate and cantilever floor of the chase should be insulated. Vapor and air infiltration barriers should be installed in the chase as per regional codes for the rest of the home. Additionally, it is recommended that the inside surfaces be sheetrocked and taped for maximum air tightness.

To prevent drafting in both vertical and horizontal firestops, the firestops should be caulked to seal gaps. Gas line holes and other openings should be caulked or stuffed with insulation. If the unit is being installed on a cement slab, it is recommended that a layer of plywood be placed underneath to prevent conducting cold up into the room. Be sure to include spark arrestors for woodburning units if they are required.