

FLUE LINERS Some flues have masonry exposed on the inside. Unlined chimney flues are common in houses built before 1940. These unlined masonry flues often work well for fireplaces and oil-fired furnaces. Gas-fired furnaces usually require a liner because the cooler exhaust condenses, producing slightly acidic water that can damage unlined flues.

Flues are typically lined with clay tile, metal, or asbestos cement pipe. For more information on chimney liners, refer to the Heating chapter.

VERMIN SCREENS Raccoons, birds and squirrels may nest in chimneys. Vermin screens on the top of the chimney flues can be used to prevent this.

CHIMNEY CAP – MASONRY The purpose of a chimney cap is to protect the top surface of a masonry chimney from water.

The chimney cap should not be confused with the rain caps that cover chimney flues to prevent water from entering the flues. Chimney caps are usually concrete; however, some are stone or metal. A cap normally overhangs the chimney sides at least one inch to protect the chimney from water dripping off the cap.

CHIMNEY CAP – METAL Caps on metal chimneys are designed to keep rain out and help promote good draw by preventing downdrafts. Caps for wood burning appliances often include a screen to prevent sparks and embers escaping from the chimney top.

