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Hannah Kapczynski Dear Hannah, fireplaces are a great way to add value to your home. Not only do they add to the atmosphere, but they can also function as an effective heat source. There are many effective heating options to consider. For example, pellets are environmentally friendly, renewable energy. Coal is also a clean incinerator, plus it does not produce creosote, a dark soot that can be built in wood-burning fireplaces. Gas or electric fireplaces offer a realistic kind of fire using realistic logs with built-in managed heaters. I suggest you check out the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA) website at [www.HPBA.org](http://www.HPBA.org). It lists 10 questions that will help you identify the right fireplace for your home. Here are a few questions you started. For the full list, visit the HPBA website. Do you have an existing fireplace or stove? If you have a device that is inefficient or rarely used, converting to a new hearth product can be simple and surprisingly affordable. Gas magazines or fireplace insert can only be for you. Do you want fire for its aesthetic appearance or for its warmth? Some of the fireplace's products are simply decorative, while others are extremely effective as well as look beautiful. How much heat would you like? How much do you want to spend? Price is always a consideration. Prices for Hearth products range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. Fuel prices are also a factor to be considered and vary by region. While you are on the HPBA website, also check out the benefits of different Hearth products. This list can help narrow the options available by giving some of the benefits of gas appliances, wood stoves and fireplace inserts, wood-burning fireplaces, pellet ovens and coal stoves. Once you have made a decision, make sure you check with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to confirm that the unit you choose meets EPA smoke emission standards. The answer to the second part of your question - How can I wear it? - really depends on the type of fireplace you choose. For example, if you decide on a direct air gas fireplace, you will be able to fit the surround of any existing tile or stone in your home. For any fireplace that you choose, you will also be able to choose a style mantelpiece that will suit your home. Check your area for craftsmen who have custom-made mantelpieces or search the web to produce a mantelpiece - the choice is endless. Good luck with your decision. Jennifer This content is created and maintained by a third party and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io Each item on this page was curated by the editor of ELLE Decor. We can earn a commission on some of the items you choose to buy. December 5, 2011 Photographer: Mark Williams 1 of 8 Fire Power Steel Fireplace Painted hanging from the ceiling of a Victorian-era house in South Africa that was renovated by architect Antonio Saninovich and decorator Bayraktar. The living room has a wrapper concrete bench, a zebra leather carpet, and a captain chair by Brazilian designer Gene Gillon. 2 of 8 Fire Power Festive greens, oversized silver jewelry, and a pair of topiari-dress fireplace in a Chicago apartment decorated with Alessandra Branca. Gilded wood mirror Regency, and wing chair By William Yeoward. 3 of 8 Fire Power's photographer William Waldron at an upstate New York farm, a layer of white paint gives the fireplace a field stone fresh look. A chair, an upcausor in vintage Marimekko fabric and a 19th century watch, are both Danish. 4 of the 8 Fire Power Slate fireplace extends from floor to ceiling in the living room of the chalet in the French Alps. The niche behind the chimney provides storage of logs and acceleration. Rustic chic touches include vintage dentist lamps and a weathered farm bench. 5 of 8 Fire Power artist John Dowd returned his 1820 cottage in Provincetown, Massachusetts, in his period style, having edged a Windsor chair and simple candlesticks. His painting of Truro Twilight hangs over the mantelpiece. 6 of 8 Fire Power Designer Katie Ridder and her husband, architect Peter Pennoyer, mixed Middle Eastern and Scandinavian accents in the lair of their Westchester County, New York, home. Lattice screens frame a fireplace that is surrounded by leather poufs from John Derian and Chairs by Jens Risom for Knoll. Seven of Aline Chastel's eight fire dealers decorated a marble fireplace in their Paris apartment with Georges Jouve vases, a carved 1930s wooden panel and a Ceramic Andre Border lamp. A 60s cocktail table by Gerard Millet, and a 40s flooring table by Jean Roy're. Advertising - Continue reading below This content is created and supported by a third party, and imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content on piano.io It may be spring, but cold temperatures and snow storms are still brewing throughout the U.S. we're itching for a cozier home. If you happen to be near the fireplace in these cold times or just want to bring more hygge to your summer home, we asked Ted Cuttitta, owner of NY Fireplace Designs, all you need to know is to light a fire. If the fireplace has been used before, remove excess ash and soot. Use a metal bucket to avoid accidental fires. Open the air control or damper to allow air to flow through the chimney. Contact your model fireplace for more information about the airflow system it is equipped with. Is there an outdoor fireplace? Common in historical properties or With a traditional heat source, open fireplaces usually do not have a glass door and have no airflow control. The chimney remains open at all times. Check the chimney before each fire, rolling a lit sheet of newspaper inside the fireplace. Notice how the wind moves. If the smoke, if you move up through the fireplace, the chimney is open. If smoke flows into the room, the chimney may be closed or clogged. Chimneys must be cleaned at least once a year by a licensed professional. If you believe that your fireplace is clogged, don't light a fire until you have it re-inspected. Brad Holland / House Beautiful Build even magazine StackLayer magazines in stack, the largest at the bottom and the smallest on top. This allows the spread to spread evenly and burn longer without needing to re-ignite. Grind the newspaper into small strips, layering them on top of the log pile. Using the remaining kindling, build a pyramid shape on top like a fire starter. This helps to catch fire and provide a cleaner burn. Brad Holland / House Beautiful Light FireUsing match or lighter, light newspaper that allows fire to build and spread to large magazines and create uniform flames. Adjust the damper or air control as needed for a smaller flame and be sure to build your fire for the time desired. The more logs, the longer your fire will burn. If you plan to leave the fire unattended for long periods of time, light fewer fires more often, making sure to clean excess coals before each light. Brad Holland / House Beautiful How about fire starters? Fire starters, such as Duraflame or Java Logs, are made with wooden logs from sawdust, vegetable wax and other flammable substances. Many are designed to ignite in adverse conditions and claim to last longer. Great for beginners or those looking for fire on the look only, most starter logs are a sustainable and safe alternative to solid wood in EPA tests. However, it is not recommended to use starter logs to burn off and they provide a lower burn temperature than traditional wood, making them ineffective for homes using fireplaces as a source of heat or for indoor s'mores. The more you know! Follow House Beautiful on Instagram. This content is created and supported by a third party and is imported to this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar contents on piano.io Image: 6000CLX/Heat and Glo If you want to add a fireplace to your existing home, ask yourself what value it brings to you and your property. About half of the 40 million homes in the U.S. since 1973 have been built without a fireplace, and yet a consumer survey after a survey of home buyers show that most people want one and are willing to pay extra to have it. For homeowners considering adding a fireplace to their existing home, here are the answers to the questions you have to ask to determine if the fireplace is right for you. 1. Is it possible? With the variety of fireplace options available today, from traditional wood-burning masonry to wall-mounted ventless units, it would be difficult to imagine a situation in which it would be completely impossible to add a fireplace of some kind. That being said, local interpretations and compliance with building codes can dictate details such as chimney height, construction of a firebox and chimney, minimum gaps around ventilation pipes, and restrictions on fireplace emissions - all of which narrows down your choices. You will need to check with your city or county construction department, many of which have current code information online. There's also the issue of fuel: If you have room to safely store a stack of wood (not against the house - fire danger - but in a convenient proximity) or an existing source of natural gas or propane, then you will increase your options. Funding is a confusing time, but lenders are putting remedies like patience in place to help homeowners. Buy and sell there are no stupid questions to ask a real estate agent. Cleaning and decluttering bleach solution or alcohol is your best bet for keeping your home disinfected. 2. How much will it cost? The cost of materials and labor to add a new fireplace can run a gamut from a few hundred dollars to \$20,000 or more. Among the most popular options, a plant-built gas/propane fireplace unit runs about \$2,000 for a package of basic materials; Add to this at least another \$5,000 for the cost to hire professional merchants to cut a hole in the exterior wall, frame and build a chimney, install a fireplace, and add volume and mantle. The figure on spending about half of that or less for a fireplace that holes horizontally through the wall - called a direct-ventilated fireplace - which eliminates the cost of building a vertical chimney and chimney extension, and for a simpler finish around the fireplace opening. The EPA has a qualified wood-burning fireplace that shows doors with air-printing pads to regulate how much indoor air it uses for combustion, so saving energy and reducing emissions can cost upwards of \$4,000 per unit. The cost of installing and finishing such units, however, is about the same as that of a fireplace on natural gas. A traditional, open-air, wood-burning fireplace - like the ones you see in mountain resort hotels - requires a skilled, professional mason and budget approaching (and often exceeds) \$20,000. The lower end of the cost spectrum includes so-called free gas or gel fireplaces, and those powered by electricity. Expect to spend about \$400 as well as another \$1,000 to have a professional setup and finish those that gas or propane line. When considering costs as well as a factor in the constant costs, namely fuel and maintenance. Service. For the U.S. Department of Energy, natural gas is the least expensive public heating fuel in the country at an average of \$1.42 per thermal (a measure of the cost of heating), followed by oil and propane; electricity, meanwhile, is almost twice the average cost of natural gas. Utility rates vary by geographic region, so contact your local suppliers to accurately estimate these costs; Your use of the fireplace will affect the running costs of the fuel as well. If you have an easily accessible (and therefore cheap) source of wood, ideally on your own property, it's probably the goat bone cost of any communal source. Wood and natural gas are by far the most popular fuel fireplace, combining for 83% of the market, according to the National Association of Homebuilders Research Center. An annual service contract with a professional fireplace or chimney inspector, about \$150, is a relatively inexpensive way to keep your fireplace with confidence. Home Maintenance Tips Keep vintage wallpapers, but update that time and money draining a retro thermostat for programmable. Home maintenance tips Save your cash for more important things like, you know, your mortgage. Home maintenance tips, even if you think they've already started to freeze. Home Service Tips Teiltale signs you are flubbing homeowners service like parking on the grass. Home maintenance tips Avoid regrets knowing what questions to ask REALTOR® or owner before committing to a new home. Related: The cost of adding a fireplace 3. Will I recoup my initial costs? The fireplace generally does not figure out separately in professional home valuation, although real estate sellers often consider it to be a hot button among potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors (r) 2007 Profile Home Buyers Features, 46% of home buyers said they would pay an additional (average \$1,220) for a home with at least one fireplace, the most popular coveted feature in the survey. However, says certified appraiser and real estate industry author Mark Rattermann, probably the best gauge is to look at the number of newly built homes with fireplaces to measure whether home buyers want and are willing to pay for them. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 53% of new homes built in 2008 included at least one fireplace. That's down from a peak of 66% in 1990, although that drop-off may say more about builders trying to reduce prices than changes in consumer demand, as the latest survey of NAHB consumer preferences found that 77% of homebuyers want a fireplace. also invites homeowners to consider a new fireplace in the context of the total value of their home while trying to assess its payback potential. A \$10,000 fireplace in a \$1 million home is well supported in most markets, he says, because it is an expected feature in upscale homes. Houses. A \$10,000 fireplace in a \$100,000 home probably isn't valued as much, in the context of other cost priorities at this price. 4. Where will he go? If you're thinking of payback, put a new fireplace in the most commonly used room in the house (except the kitchen). It is usually a family room or a large room. But if your goal is personal pleasure or perhaps a more practical goal of heating space, the best place where the device best serves these purposes: to enhance the living room in the master bedroom, to heat the office or guest room at the far end of the ducts to run a forced air system, or to relax the atmosphere in the less commonly used living room. And don't forget the backyard: About 3 million outdoor fireplaces are installed each year, according to the Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association, as part of a general trend towards more extensive outdoor living spaces. Expect to pay about the same for an outdoor unit installed, as you would compare an indoor fireplace, although don't expect an external unit to be an effective source of heating, rather, especially for the atmosphere. 5. Is the fireplace energy efficient? It's true that a traditional, wood-burning fireplace in a large, open room - while romantic and impressive for guests - is the energy of pigs, constantly sucking air-conditioned air indoors for combustion and losing most of their heat to the chimney. But airtight units (including those that burn wood) have mechanics, controls and ventilation systems to use outdoor air for combustion, reduce heat loss, and effectively supplement the primary home heating system. A fireplace used for an zonal or small space stove area can reduce energy requirement on the stove and reduce utility bills by allowing you to turn down the thermostat when the fire goes. Theoretically, a series of well-placed and right-size fireplaces can completely replace the existing home heating system. A direct air-gas fireplace is a much more efficient as an in-room space heating option than the traditional central forced air system (using the stove), says Steve Frederickson, a fireplace installation expert and lecturer for Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Education Foundation. It is very wasteful to keep your entire house at 70 degrees all the time. If everyone used one of these fireplaces to heat only the rooms they use when they use them, it would reduce the heating load in residential areas by 20-25%. Related: Energy-efficient fireplace options

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