

Fireplaces

A basement fireplace is really nice to have. Pleasant to look at they make your space warm and inviting. Here are a few thoughts to take into consideration if want to have one.

My most important recommendation is to choose a direct vent prefabricated firebox if you wish to have real “fire.” The direct vent fireplaces are easily vented through the first floor joist box. I am personally uncomfortable with the ventless variety as they tend to draw air out of the room. If you must have one of these, please make sure a window is open to bring in fresh air whenever the fireplace is operational.

Gas fireplaces tend to generate lots of heat. You may find that you need to turn the fireplace off after 20 or 30 minutes as the room becomes uncomfortably hot – especially if the room is smaller.

Many fireplace stores can install the fireplace for you. Their professional crews know what they’re doing and have had lots of experience. And so it’s been said, follow the manufacturer’s installation guidelines to the letter if you intend upon doing the install yourself. Leave nothing to chance. Make sure any installation, by you or a professional, is inspected by your community at the rough framing inspection.

Electric fireplaces have come a very long way in the past several years. These look almost as nice as the gas fireplaces, won’t generate the same amount of heat, and are easier to install. All you have to do is plug ‘em in.

No venting and the “fire” looks real.

Treatments for fireplaces, mantles and surrounds range from simple to ornate. You can use drywall, cultured stone, cultured brick, wood, tile and any combination thereof.