

Chimenea



Chimeneas have been an outside staple for centuries, as they were originally designed for baking bread. In recent decades, they have become a wonderful focal point for garden gatherings and setting the mood for al fresco dining during the warmer months.

Is a chimenea better than a fire pit?

Fire pits have become an attractive alternative to the chimenea for many in recent years, however, there are some important things to keep in mind when choosing between the two.

Crucially, a garden chimenea is much safer than a fire pit as its design ensures that the flames are always directed up and out. This ensures that the burn is more controlled in a chimenea, allowing you to sit back and relax rather than needing to be concerned about the fire getting out of control.

The design of the best chimenea products also means that you won't need to spend much time at all tending to the fire. In fact, a couple of small logs in a chimenea can burn well all evening long, even when left alone completely.

Will a chimenea keep you warm?

Chimeneas are an excellent source of heat and have become a popular option at an array of outside events over the last few decades, largely because the emitted heat will reach across a large area.

Chimeneas are also significantly more economical and greener than patio heaters, which consume high levels of non-renewable gas or electricity. So, provided that you choose a clay, iron or steel chimenea that is the ideal size for your outside space, you and your guests are certain to be kept nice and toasty even as the evening chill begins to set in.

What is the benefit of a chimenea?

Chimeneas are both decorative and functional, making them a wonderful addition to your outside space. Not only are they easy to maintain and provide an excellent source of heat, but they are also very safe and can be positioned in a variety of different places to suit your needs. In addition, many of the best chimenea models are fitted with a grill, which means that you can even use it to barbecue your favourite foods, cook popcorn, or toast marshmallows for an authentic cosy campfire experience.

There are numerous options when it comes to creating a fire inside your chimenea, including wood kindling and scrunched up newspaper, smokeless fire logs, and specially designed chimenea logs which are typically made from recycled materials such as sawdust and offer a slow, even burn.

Do you put anything in the bottom of a chimenea?

If your garden chimenea is made of clay, it is important to put a layer of sand in the bottom which will prevent the bottom of the fire bowl from being damaged by hot ashes. The only exception to this is if the chimenea has been made from a heat-resistant clay material. There are numerous alternatives to sand, including pea gravel and lava rock which can be easier to clean as they will retain less moisture than sand.

If you have a cast iron or steel chimenea, it isn't necessary to place sand in the bottom because these materials behave very differently from clay when they are exposed to heat. However, if your chimenea is close to the ground or the fire sits fairly low in the bowl, adding a layer of sand will be beneficial.

Where should you position your chimenea?

The design of chimeneas means that they can be positioned in a variety of locations around your garden. All you really need to remember is to place it several feet away from any walls or objects on a firm, fire-proof base such as terracotta tiles, concrete or a paved patio. It is important to avoid positioning your chimenea on wooden decking, as this can pose a fire risk. Additionally, placing chimeneas on a grassy area may cause scorching.