



## THE GUILD OF MASTER CHIMNEY SWEEPS

*Powering chimney sweeping into the 21st Century*



### Industry Standard for Approved Chimney Sweeps

This is the Industry Standard for Approved Chimney Sweeps cleaning or scraping the interiors of chimneys and flues provided for use with heating appliances. Members of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps strictly adhere to the points contained within this document. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

- A Chimney Sweep is someone that has been professionally trained and certified through either The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps or The National Association of Chimney Sweeps in the profession of chimney sweeping. (Outside bodies may also meet this training criteria)

Training elements must include the bullet points below for a period of no less than 80 supervised hours:

- Health and safety appertaining to Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, site safety, COSHH and risk assessments
- The chemistry of combustion of Hydrocarbon based fuels
- Heat transfer methods
- Chimney physics
- Chimney testing
- Fault finding
- Solid fuel servicing
- Flue design and termination
- Chimney lining methods
- Ventilation requirements
- Disposal of waste products
- Building regulations section J
- Brush and mechanised sweeping methods
- Sealing and protection methods



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Additionally master chimney sweeps require training in:

- Flue gas analysis
- Working at heights
- Chimney leakage testing to BSEN 1443
- Camera surveying and documenting
- A site safety qualification
- Gas flues
- Oil flues
- The HETAS H004 Qualification or equivalent
- Biomass servicing methods
- 2 full years trading and working as a chimney sweep

### **Sweeping Practice**

1. The practice of chimney sweeping for the purpose of this Industry Standard shall be deemed to be the passing of an adequately sized strength brush or star, appropriate to the diameter of the chimney and flue used, through the complete length of the chimney. The brush may be put through by either rods or a viper.
2. A Chimney Sweep must ensure that they carry a sufficient number of rods or viper to ensure that the brush will pass the length of the chimney or flue completely.
3. A Chimney Sweep will ensure that the sweeping brushes in use are in good order and with full bristle. The passing of worn or damaged brushes is unacceptable.
4. Chimneys should be swept thoroughly with a brush or cleaning implement that is suitable to remove the products of combustion within the flue and that can determine blockages and restrictions within the flue.
5. The Vacuum only method of cleaning a chimney is not an acceptable practice under the rules of the Industry Standard.
6. The immediate floor area and fireplace opening or boiler hatch must be protected using suitable sheeting to keep mess to the absolute minimum before and during the sweeping process.
7. The sweep must ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent dust entering the premises from a chimney or appliance. Sealing methods such as foam blocks or soot sheets etc... must be utilised.
8. Once the chimney has been swept, the chimney sweep will issue a Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps Certificate to the householder, property owner or management company stating that the chimney has been swept in accordance with the Industry Standard issued by the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps. Should there be any defect or damage this must be recorded on the Certificate or Warning Notice.
9. All problems and faults found during sweeping must be made known to the persons with whom the sweeping contract is made, or the property owner. All such problems and faults relating to the chimney or heating appliance shall be put in writing.
10. All flues/chimneys should be smoke draw tested as a matter of routine.

[www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk](http://www.guildofmasterchimneysweeps.co.uk)

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11. All rooms which contain combustion appliances should be checked for adequate ventilation and CO alarms where required.
12. Chimney Testing shall be carried out in accordance with BSEN 1443 where leakage testing is required
13. Soot and waste shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner for polycyclic aromatic Hydrocarbons and will only be transported with the appropriate local authority permissions in the form of a waste carriage licence for said products. Current COSHH statements must be carried in the vehicle.

### **Business Practice**

14. A Chimney Sweep must carry the appropriate public liability and/or indemnity insurance appropriate to the services that they advertise and provide.
15. A Chimney Sweep must comply with the Complaints Procedure of The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps.
16. Copies of Sweeping Certificates must be held for a minimum of 2 years or at the point of reissue.
17. Imminently dangerous occurrences must be reported to RIDDOR or other appropriate reporting agency immediately and a warning label attached to the appliance or hearth stone in question.
18. A Chimney Sweep must comply with all current data protection legislation.

### **Advertising Practice**

19. A chimney sweep must not advertise or undertake work for which they are not competent or insured.
20. A Chimney Sweep must promote The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps in a positive and professional manner.
21. As a member of The Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps the Chimney Sweep is authorised to use the Guild branding however it must be used in accordance with the Corporate Identity Standards 2010.
22. If a Chimney Sweep ceases membership of the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps they must remove all Guild branding within 48 hours or at the point of the advertising contract expiration.