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Gas Log Sets: Vented Gas Logs vs. Ventless Gas Logs

The basic principle separating the two types of gas logs is that vented gas logs require some means of venting the combustion by-products and exhaust resulting from the burning of any kinds of fuel, and ventless or vent-free gas logs do not. In practical terms, this means that lots of things (including some heat) go up the chimney or out the vent pipe when using vented gas logs. In contrast, almost everything (especially heat) is contained in the home when dealing with vent-free logs.

We will gladly show the two different products and discuss which option may be best for you.

Vented Gas Logs

Advantages

- Generally less expensive purchase cost compared to ventless logs
- Ideal for homeowners seeking ambiance from their gas logs as opposed to heating capacity
- Venting allows for a much higher yellow flame than vent-free logs, creating a more realistic-looking flame
- Does not require a carbon monoxide (CO) detector
- Since these logs must be operated with an open damper, whatever smell is produced goes up the chimney

Disadvantages

- Provides significantly less heat than ventless gas logs
- Usually uses slightly more fuel than vent-free logs
- Requires a chimney or other venting system

Ventless (Vent Free) Gas Logs

Advantages

- Much better heat output than vent
- Because the fuel must burn almost completely in ventless gas logs, they produce less pollution
- Slightly less fuel consumption than vented logs
- No requirements for venting and can be used in a fireplace or a self-contained cabinet

Disadvantages

- Burning fuel cleanly produces moisture, so ventless gas logs introduce some moisture into the home's atmosphere
- Burning vent-free gas logs gradually depletes the oxygen in the area, so burning them for long periods of time requires cracking a window, allowing in oxygen and some heating benefits
- Illegal in California and some municipalities, so check your local regulations. Also, vent-free gas logs must be used with the vent open
- Required as ODS (Oxygen depletion system) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector in the home
- Smaller, less realistic blue flame compared to vented gas logs
- Can produce a slight odor most people compare to burning kerosene (although many customers report enjoying the light odor)