

# Beware of Burns



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## Informational Resources:

US Consumer Product Safety  
Commission [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

American Academy of  
Pediatrics  
[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Safe Kids Worldwide  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

National Fire Protection  
Association  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

## The Dangers of Gas Fireplaces

The use of gas fireplaces is becoming very popular compared to the traditional wood-burning fireplace. Gas fireplaces are cleaner and appear to be safer as they do not have sparks shooting out from wood. They are also very simple to use, just flip a switch and they light up. However gas fireplaces get hot quickly and can burn children fast.

Children usually burn their hands and fingers on the glass and metal parts of the door. Young children under five years of age, especially those under two, are at increased risk. These children are busy exploring and are often unsteady on their feet. Children have been burned when they have fallen towards the gas fireplace and have pushed up against the hot glass for balance. As a result, children often suffer third-degree burns.

Remember it takes just two seconds to be seriously burned!

## Injury Facts

- Gas fireplace burns are typically second and third degree; often resulting in emergency room visits and hospital stays.
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns can take up to 3 weeks to heal.
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns usually require skin grafts.
- Children between the ages of 8 months and 2 ½ years old are most at risk of gas fireplace burns.

## The Risks

- The glass doors or barrier on a gas fireplace can heat up to 400+ degrees Fahrenheit in about 6 minutes.
- After a gas fire is extinguished or turned “off” it takes about 45 minutes for the fireplace screen and door to cool down to a safe temperature.



## Keep Your Child Safe Around Gas Fireplaces

- Never leave a child alone near a fireplace, gas or wood burning. Remember, safety gates can keep your child from being in the room alone.
- Create a barrier around the fireplace. Safety guards can be installed to keep your child at a safe distance at all times.
- Teach your child about the dangers of fire. Children are fascinated by fire and may not understand the dangers.
- Purchase a safety attachment designed to disperse heat from the gas fireplace doors.
- Consider not using the fireplace if your child is less than 5 years old or use it only after your child has gone to sleep.