



April 22, 2016

RE: HHT Factory Built Fireplaces / Hearth Systems exposed to the elements

To Whom It May Concern:

When a factory-built fireplace has been exposed to a large amount of water, we do not recommend that an attempt be made to restore the unit to service. Insulation that is used to control temperatures can be damaged and air passages blocked. This could cause the unit to overheat and create a fire hazard. There is also a problem with odor once the insulation has been wet.

There are also concerns with damage occurring of other components and rusting. Rusting which can occur due to exposure to water can hinder the integrity of the unit. Because our units are zero clearance units they can be framed in the combustible products at close proximity. Rusting of the unit and components can cause a potential fire hazard. Under these circumstances the integrity of the unit has been compromised.

The same replacement policy applies to a gas-burning fireplace. Floodwater destroys the gas valves as well as the other components in the gas train.

Since wood burning and gas-burning fireplaces have not been tested and listed for use where they are to be submerged in water, the physical act of doing so will void the UL listing of the product. The fact that the listing of the product is voided will have a dramatic effect on the product's compliance with building codes, as well as its suitability to be insured under a homeowner's policy.

Based upon disassembly and cleaning costs, we recommend that the fireplace system be replaced to ensure safe and proper operation of the fireplace system.

The floodwater replacement policy applies to all fireplace/systems product manufactured by Hearth & Home Technologies

If you should have any further questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Hearth and Home Technical Service