



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT • BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION  
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## STANDARD MASONRY CHIMNEY AND FIREPLACE GUIDE

### SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

A building permit for any repair or alteration, and construction of a masonry chimney or fireplace is required.

The City of Mountain View does not allow new or relocation of existing wood-burning appliances, per CMV Municipal Code Chapter 8, Division IV, Section 8.25.5. Please visit: [City of Mountain View - Municode Library](#) for code section and exemptions.

Three (3) sets of plans wet-signed by the designer/architect, contractor, or homeowner responsible for preparing the plans. All plans submitted shall contain existing and new floor plans, and be a minimum plan size of 11" x 17". Please ensure your plans are legible to facilitate digitizing for permanent record of the project after construction is completed.

If the property is overseen by a Homeowners Association and the scope of work is in the common area, exterior of a building or includes the alteration of walls, a letter of authorization signed by the HOA is required.

Exterior modifications to buildings require Planning review and approval prior to submittal to the Building Division.

The following is a list of general requirements based on the 2016 California Codes & Mountain View Municipal Codes. This brochure is intended to provide general information. If you have any additional questions please contact the Building Inspection Division at (650) 903-6313.

### BASIC CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Provide minimum (3) existing and proposed elevations plans and/or sections plans.
- Show compliance on the plans with the Mountain View Municipal Code Chapter 8, Division IV, Section 8.25.5.
- Show compliance on the plans with Chapter 10, Table R1001.1, of the 2016 California Residential Code requirements:

CHAPTER 10 – MASONRY  
**TABLE R1001.1**  
**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MASONRY FIREPLACES AND CHIMNEYS**

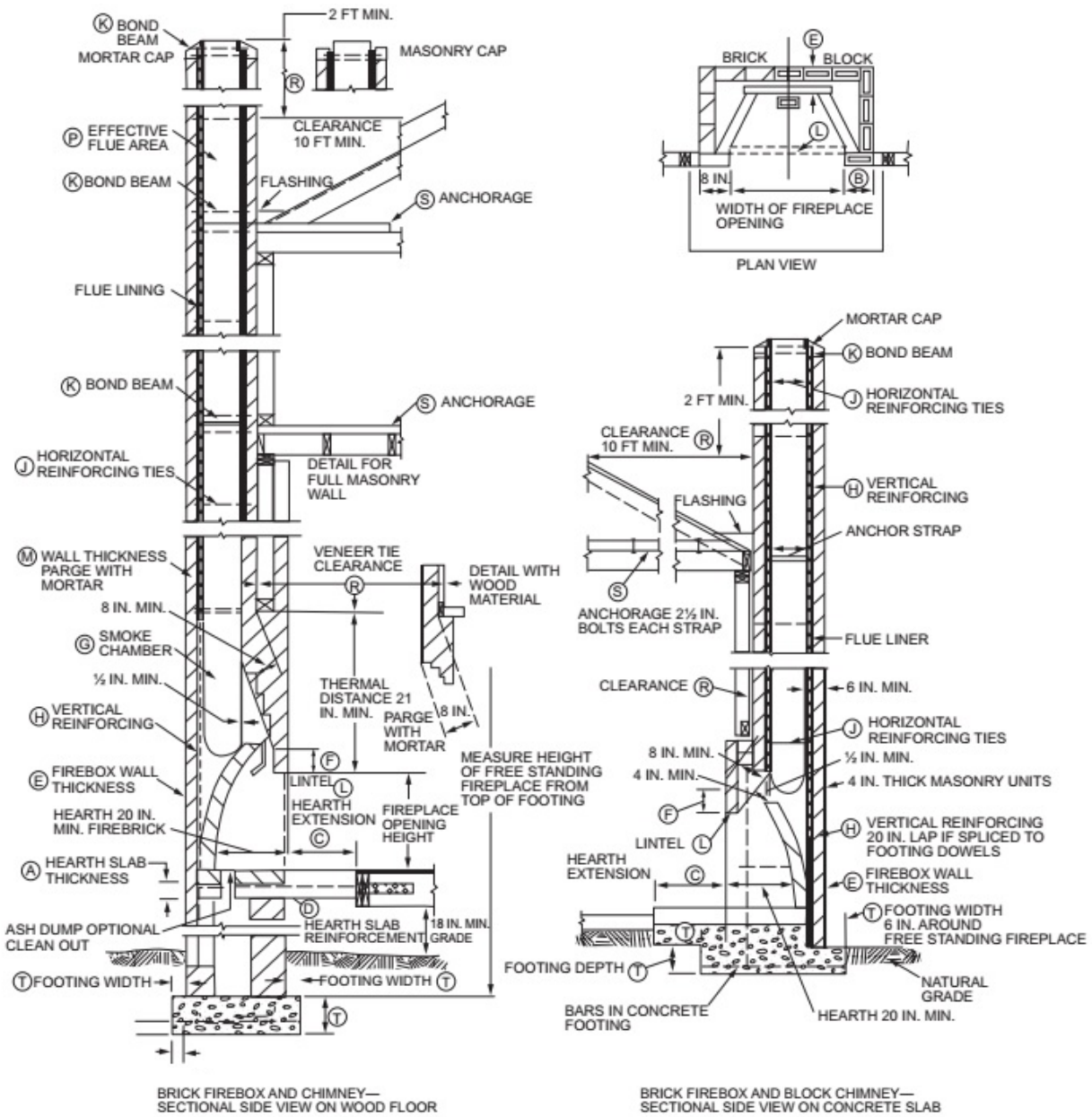
ITEM	LETTER <sup>a</sup>	REQUIREMENTS
Hearth slab thickness	A	4"
Hearth extension (each side of opening)	B	8" fireplace opening < 6 square foot. 12" fireplace opening ≥ 6 square foot.
Hearth extension (front of opening)	C	16" fireplace opening < 6 square foot. 20" fireplace opening ≥ 6 square foot.
Hearth slab reinforcing	D	Reinforced to carry its own weight and all imposed loads.
Thickness of wall of firebox	E	10" solid brick or 8" where a firebrick lining is used. Joints in firebrick 1/4" maximum.
Distance from top of opening to throat	F	8"
Smoke chamber wall thickness Unlined walls	G	6" 8"
Chimney Vertical reinforcing <sup>b</sup>	H	Four No. 4 full-length bars for chimney up to 40" wide. Add two No. 4 bars for each additional 40" or fraction of width or each additional flue.
Horizontal reinforcing	J	1/4" ties at 18" and two ties at each bend in vertical steel.
Bond beams	K	No specified requirements.
Fireplace lintel	L	Noncombustible material.
Chimney walls with flue lining	M	Solid masonry units or hollow masonry units grouted solid with not less than 4-inch nominal thickness.
Distances between adjacent flues	—	See Section R1003.13.
Effective flue area (based on area of fireplace opening)	P	See Section R1003.15.
Clearances Combustible material Mantel and trim Above roof	R	See Sections R1001.11 and R1003.18. See Section R1001.11, Exception 4. 3' at roofline and 2' at 10'.
Anchorage <sup>b</sup> Strap Number Embedment into chimney Fasten to Bolts	S	3/16" × 1" Two 12" hooked around outer bar with 6" extension. 4 joists Two 1/2" diameter.
Footing Thickness Width	T	12" min. 6" each side of fireplace wall.

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Note:** This table provides a summary of major requirements for the construction of masonry chimneys and fireplaces. Letter references are to Figure R1001.1, which shows examples of typical construction. This table does not cover all requirements, nor does it cover all aspects of the indicated requirements. For the actual mandatory requirements of the code, see the indicated section of text.

a. The letters refer to Figure R1001.1.

b. Not required in Seismic Design Category A or B.



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

**FIGURE R1001.1**  
**FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY DETAILS**

**OTHER RELATED HANDOUTS**

1. Smoke Detector requirements
2. Carbon Monoxide Detector req.
3. Self-Certification ~ Smoke and Carbon Detectors