



Homeowner Guide to Chimney Repair Options

Most buildings in the City of American Canyon sustained no damage or moderate damage from the August Earthquake, but many chimneys have not fared as well. If your chimney sustained damage, following are repair options to fit your individual circumstances.

All of these options require a permit and inspections. The City is offering free permits and inspections for earthquake damage repair. Before making repairs, it is recommended that you call a chimney expert to inspect your chimney for unseen damage and provide guidance on repair options.

There are several options available to you:

- 1) **Cap the chimney at the roofline.** A licensed contractor would need to prove that the remaining portions of the chimney are structurally sound. Plans submitted to the City must show that the interior opening of the fireplace will be permanently sealed or bricked in so that a wood fire cannot be lit in the fireplace.
- 2) **Remove the chimney with no replacement.** Remove the masonry chimney, fire box and chimney foundation and repair the space where the chimney used to be with an interior and exterior wall that matches either side of the removed chimney.
- 3) **Remove the existing chimney and replace with gas fireplace.** Remove the existing masonry chimney and fire box and construct a new gas fireplace with a wood frame chimney or vent directly to the exterior wall. A licensed contractor will need to prepare building plans for the new gas fired fireplace.
- 4) **Remove the existing chimney and replace with new brick chimney.** Remove the existing masonry chimney and construct a new brick chimney in its place. A licensed contractor will need to prepare building plans for the new chimney. Contact the Building Division at (707) 647-4581 for specifications.
- 5) **Repair the existing chimney.** The scope of repairs will depend on the extent of the chimney damage and whether the chimney is reinforced or unreinforced. A structural engineer will need to assess the chimney and prepare repair plans.

If you have any questions about how to obtain a building permit application or information needed to complete the application, please contact the Building Division at (707) 647-4581.

