

How to Install a Stovepipe Damper



Wood-burning stoves and fireplaces need a damper to control the amount of heat that escapes via the stovepipe or chimney. A stovepipe damper is little more than a large butterfly valve inside the stovepipe with an exterior handle you can turn to regulate the exhaust from the stove. You can install a stovepipe damper sized to match the diameter of your stovepipe in just a few minutes with some basic hand-operated tools.

1

Determine the diameter of the damper plate using a tape measure. Measure this distance from the un-crimped end of the section of stovepipe. Mark the pipe at this location using an awl to make a slight indent.

2

Insert a 1/4-inch drill bit into a power drill. Drill a hole in the stovepipe at the marked location.

3

Position the damper plate inside the stovepipe and slide the tip of the handle rod through the hole you made in the outside of the pipe. Align the rod with the slots in the damper plate and slide the rod through until the end touches the opposite side of the stovepipe. Hold the rod horizontally and rotate the damper plate to center it within the pipe. Tap the end of the handle with a hammer to make a slight dent in the opposite side of the stovepipe. Remove the damper plate and handle rod.

4

Locate the dent on the stovepipe opposite the drilled hole. Tap on the spot with an awl to reverse the dent, so that it bulges inward. Drill a 1/4-inch hole through dent in the stovepipe.

5

Re-insert the damper plate into the pipe. Slide the handle rod through the first hole, into the damper slots and then out through the second hole in the stovepipe. Rotate the rod until the bend in the rod slides through the slot in the plate. Turn the rod clockwise and pull back slightly to lock the bend into the groove in the plate.

6

Turn the handle to adjust the angle of the damper plate. Verify that you can turn the damper plate 360 degrees without interfering with the edges of the stovepipe before installing the pipe on the wood stove.

Things You Will Need

- Stovepipe damper
- Tape measure
- Awl
- Power drill
- 1/4-inch drill bit
- Hammer

Warning

- When drilling into metal, wear safety glasses and gloves to protect your eyes and hands.