

If no equipment is vented through your chimney, the chimney should be sealed off to reduce whole-house heat loss through the opening in the roof. It is important to follow both the interior and exterior sections of the flue closure protocol below.

Interior Section:

1. After removing abandoned vent pipe(s), clean all debris and loose particles from the hole opening(s) to make a tight seal. Measure the opening and choose an appropriate galvanized metal plug to be inserted into the opening. Make sure the plug has a crimped end; this will allow for easier installation. (An alternative method is to seal the flue opening with mortar to create a 100% seal.)
2. Once the plug has been selected, tap this plug into the opening with a hammer being careful not to damage it (a board may be used between the plug and hammer to protect the plug).
3. Once the plug is inserted, make a clean surface by cleaning again around the edge where the chimney and the plug meet.
4. Apply a bead of caulk around the outer edge of the metal plug to create an air tight seal.
5. Inspect all four sides of the chimney as applicable, checking for other flues and the clean-out. If insufficiently addressed, use the above protocol.
6. Inspect the sub-floor immediately surrounding the chimney. Check for chase-ways that could lead directly into the attic. Seal with spray foam, sheet metal or duct board as needed.
7. In older homes, especially rural areas where wood stoves may have been employed; inspect for flue openings that are covered by wall paper, hangings, etc. on all floors.
8. Some homes will have multiple chimneys. Inspect for this.

Exterior Section: To prevent moisture, debris, and the possibility of animals finding their way into the abandoned chimney from the exterior; measures must be taken to seal the chimney from the top. This also increases the energy savings of this measure.

1. Measure the rough opening to determine size of vent opening.
2. Fabricate a sheet metal cap with a minimum of 1" lip bent to 90 degrees.
3. Clear all loose material from top of vent, apply an adhesive caulk to top edge of chimney opening and press the cap firmly in place.
4. For metal or B-vent chimneys, install a flue plug and seal to prevent moisture intrusion.
5. While you are up there, inspect the flashing around the roof penetration(s); this is usually the first place a leak develops.