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## **When Shopping for That Perfect Fireplace, Shop for the Installer As Well**

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Thanks to advances in the training and certification of fireplace professionals, homeowners can now be more selective about who installs their fireplace.

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA) advises homeowners to shop around for a National Fireplace Institute® (NFI) Certified Specialist when choosing a professional to install that special hearth product in their home. According to Carter Keithley, HPBA President & CEO, “NFI Certified Specialists are highly trained professionals who can help homeowners get their fireplaces installed safely and efficiently.”

Want to get the most for your money? Visit your local fireplace specialty retailer for help in making the appropriate product selection and to arrange for professional installation.

### **Fireplace Specialty Retailers & NFI the Keys**

There are more than 3,200 retail hearth product stores across the U.S.; many of them employing staff certified by NFI. Keithley says that these stores are where knowledgeable homeowners shop. “Specialty retailers with NFI Certified staff are there to help the homeowner understand the wide range of choices available to them as well as to determine the type of fuel that best meets their needs,” he noted. “They advise consumers on the size, type and features of a new fireplace as well as installation requirements.”

### **Passing Fireplace 101: Meeting Building Codes & Standards**

The fireplace specialty retailer’s role is more than just selling fireplaces; it also includes knowledge of

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local codes and regulations, which can vary tremendously by area. These codes exist for good reasons, according to Susan Kalish, Executive Director of the National Fireplace Institute® (NFI), the organization managing the industry’s professional credentials for planning and installing fireplaces. “Codes developed for public safety should be strictly adhered to at all times,” she said. “Fireplaces are great products, but it is crucial that you make sure that your retailer has the right credentials to install it.” The best way to find to ensure this is to find a retailer with NFI Certified Specialists on staff.”

### **NFI Certified Installers**

NFI Certified Installers are essential in managing a project to meet local requirements as well as manufacturer’s specifications. They are knowledgeable on everything from adequately insulating a home’s walls and floors for heat protection to calculating the proper dimensions and configuration of the required venting system.

Dealing with an NFI Certified hearth professional eliminates guesswork and provides peace of mind to the homeowner. To find a specialty retailer with NFI Certified staff, visit [www.nficertified.org](http://www.nficertified.org).

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The National Fireplace Institute® (NFI) is the professional certification division of the HEARTH Education Foundation, the non-profit education arm of the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA). NFI’s objective is to increase public safety by establishing credentials for professionals involved in planning and installing residential hearth appliance and venting systems.