

## What is a “CONTINUOUS” liner?

Author: Dalton Hooker  
Western Regional Sales Manager  
DuraVent / Security Chimneys

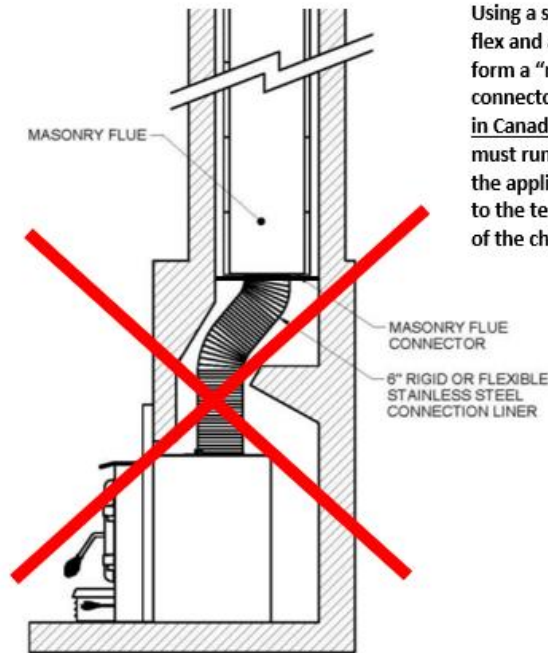
Differences in terms and code requirements between Canada and the US can often lead to misinterpretations.

What is a “*continuous*” liner? Some take this to mean a single length of flex from top to bottom. Would this mean you are not permitted to connect two or more lengths of flex together even if you were using an approved coupler? This interpretation is FALSE. After all, you would still have a connection at the appliance and top plate. And if using a rigid liner, you would still have joints every three to four feet. So where exactly is this confusion originating?

In the US market, some fireplace insert manufacturer’s do not require a continuous liner. A short stub of liner or flue pipe extending up to through the damper into the smoke-shelf may be all that is required. In other cases, no liner is used at all. The insert is simply pushed back into the opening. Insulation is stuffed around the insert’s surround to help seal off the opening to help keep smoke from spilling back into the home.

You will sometimes see these types of unapproved installations in Canada. The slang term used to describe such an installation is “*slammer*”.

In Canada, the liner must extend from the appliance outlet right up to the termination atop the masonry chimney. If you have shorter lengths of stainless flex left over from other jobs, you are perfectly fine to connect them together to form a full length providing they are of the same brand, and you are using the manufacturer’s approved couplers.



Using a short stub of stainless flex and a block-off plate to form a “masonry flue connector” is **NOT approved in Canada**. Instead, the liner must run continuously from the appliance outlet right up to the termination at the top of the chimney.

Within Canada’s CSA-B365 Installation code for solid-fuel-burning appliances and equipment you will find the following two clauses related to wood inserts:

### 6.5.2

When an insert or hearth-mounted stove is installed in a fireplace, a full chimney liner meeting the requirements of ULC S635, Class III, or CAN/ULC-S640 shall be installed in the chimney. The liner shall extend from the appliance to the top of the chimney and be securely attached to both.

### 6.5.6

When an insert or hearth-mounted stove is installed in a fireplace lined with a single-wall steel fireplace liner, steel may be removed from the damper or smoke dome area to accommodate a continuous chimney liner.