

5. Remove the catalytic combustor's refractory access cover, then remove the combustor.

6. Check the combustor's honeycomb-like element for a buildup of fly ash. If any is evident, take the combustor outside and clean it by blowing air gently through it.

7. Inspect the element for damage or degradation. Although small hairline cracks will not affect performance, the element should be essentially intact. If the element is broken in places or has sections missing, it should be replaced. Call your local Vermont Castings' Authorized Dealer for a replacement element.

While the catalytic element is removed, check the condition of the secondary air probe. Use an inspection mirror to locate the probe within the combustion chamber. The probe should extend 1" to 1-1/2" into the chamber and show no signs of deterioration, such as warping, corrosion, or short length. Refer to Figure 52. A damaged secondary air probe can affect catalytic performance. If the probe needs replacement, contact your local dealer.

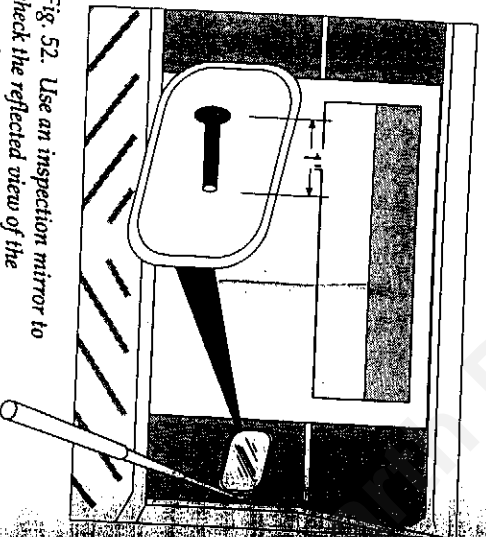


Fig. 52. Use an inspection mirror to check the reflected view of the secondary probe.

8. If the element is in good condition and clean, re-install it in the stove and replace the refractory access cover frequently during this period.
9. Replace the fireback, install the two wedges, and replace the cast iron hood.
10. Clean the chimney and chimney connector.

Operate the stove in your typical manner for two weeks, inspecting the chimney and the chimney connector frequently during this period.

If creosote is not building up as fast, it is likely that the performance change was caused by fly ash deposits on the catalytic element. However, continue the inspections of the chimney system for a few weeks to ensure that proper performance continues.

If you continue to find a significant creosote buildup or if you continue to see excessive smoke from the chimney, the catalytic element will need to be replaced. Contact your nearest Vermont Castings' Authorized Dealer for information about a replacement element.

NOTE: Use only the replacement catalyst supplied by a Vermont Castings dealer.

## Replace the Stove Gaskets as Needed

Your Encore uses rope-type fiberglass gaskets to make a tight seal between some parts. With use, particularly on those parts that move, gaskets can become brittle and compressed and can begin to lose their effectiveness. These will need periodic replacement.

All of the gaskets are made of fiberglass. The sizes of replaceable gasket are listed below, along with their applications.

Gasket Diameter...	...And the Parts it Seals
5/16" <del>1/20-3668</del>	The damper to the upper fireback; the front doors to the stove front; and the doors to each other
3/8" 120-3589	The damper to the upper fireback; the front doors to the stove front; and the doors to each other
3/4" <del>120-3589</del>	The damper to the upper fireback; the front doors to the stove front; and the doors to each other
5/16" 120-5588	The damper to the upper fireback; the front doors to the stove front; and the doors to each other

If you need to change a gasket, first obtain an appropriate replacement from your Vermont Castings' Authorized Dealer.

Wait until the fire is out and the stove has cooled. Be sure to follow the standard safety procedure for working with dusty materials: Wear safety goggles and a dust mask.

The procedure for replacing gaskets is the same, regardless of the gasket location. Follow these steps:

1. Remove the existing gasket by grasping an end and pulling firmly.

2. Use a wire brush or the tip of a screwdriver to clean the channel of any remaining cement or bits of gasket, as in Fig. 54. Remove stubborn deposits of cement with a cold chisel if necessary.

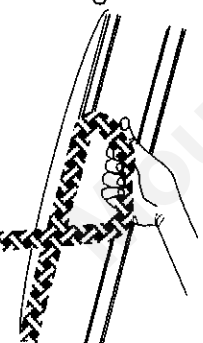


Fig. 53. Remove the old gasket.

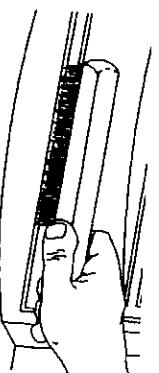


Fig. 54. Clean the gasket channel with a wire brush.

2550  
Encore

- 3.** Determine the correct length of the appropriate-sized gasket by laying it out in the channel. Allow an extra 1-2" (25-50 mm), and mark the spot to be cut. See Fig. 55.

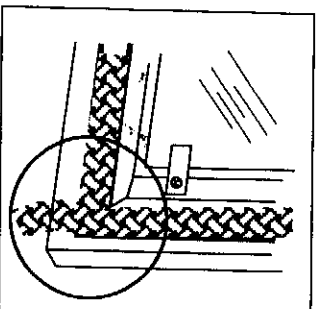


Fig. 55. Lay out the gasket in its channel to determine the right length.

- 4.** Remove the gasket from the channel, place it on a wood cutting surface, and cut it at the marked spot with a utility knife.

Twist the ends slightly to keep the gasket from unraveling.

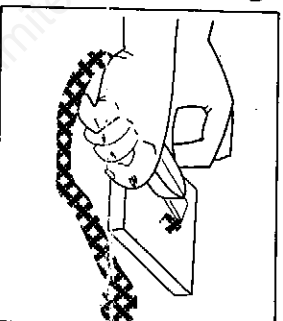


Fig. 56. Cut the gasket to rough length.

- 5.** Lay an unbroken 1/8" (3 mm) bead of gasket cement in the newly-cleaned channel.

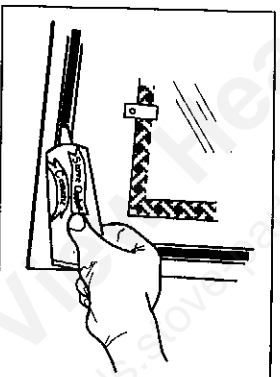


Fig. 57. Apply new cement to the clean channel.

- 6.** Starting at one end, press the gasket into the channel. Ensure a good joint where the gasket meets before trimming any excess. Do not overlap the gasket ends or leave ends with ragged edges.

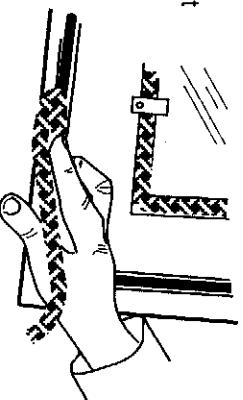


Fig. 58. Apply new gasket to the channel.

- 7.** Press the gasketed part firmly against its normal mating surface to seat the gasket evenly in its channel. Close and latch the door to do this, or tap other parts with the rubber mallet (or hammer/block of wood).

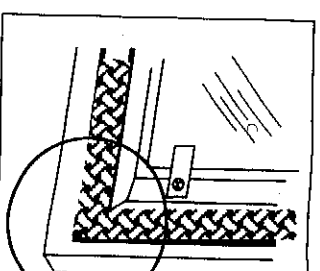


Fig. 59. Seat the gasket in its channel.

- 8.** Clean any excess cement from around the channel, then let the cement that holds the new gasket dry thoroughly.

### Adjust the Door If Necessary

The stove's door(s) may need adjustment after you have regasketed it. Initially, it may require loosening to accommodate the new gasket; after a few weeks, it may need tightening to compensate for compression of the new gasket. The directions for adjusting the doors are page 23-24

### Permanent Encore Gaskets

Other gaskets form seals between non-moving parts, but these are not subject to the same wear and deterioration as gaskets on moving parts. It is unlikely that you will ever need to replace these gaskets unless the involved parts are disassembled and then put back together. If this is the case, the job should be done only by a qualified service technician.

- 5/16" diameter gasket seals the following parts:
- The flue collar to the stove back
- The lower fireback to the sides

## The Chimney System

### Creosote

Your Encore is designed to reduce creosote build-up significantly. However, regular chimney inspection and maintenance must still be performed. For safety, good stove performance, and to protect your chimney and chimney connector, inspect your chimney and chimney connector on a regular schedule. Clean the system if necessary. Failure to keep the chimney and connector system clean can result in a serious chimney fire.