

Chimney Crown by Finn Home Inspectors

The purpose of the Chimney crown is to keep water out of the bricks/chimney and to shed it clear of the bricks.

With a proper crown:

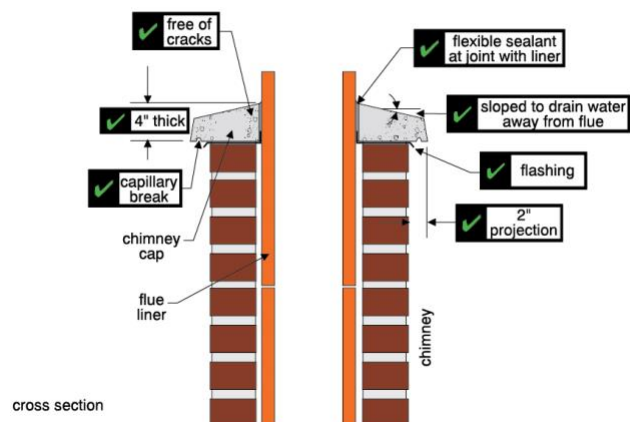
1. The concrete cap overhangs the bricks.
2. There is a drip edge built in along the lower outer edge of the concrete.
3. The crown is not cemented to the liner, it is caulked to allow movement.

Single flue chimneys often have proper crowns because they are pre-made and are simply set on top of the chimney and caulked to the flue.

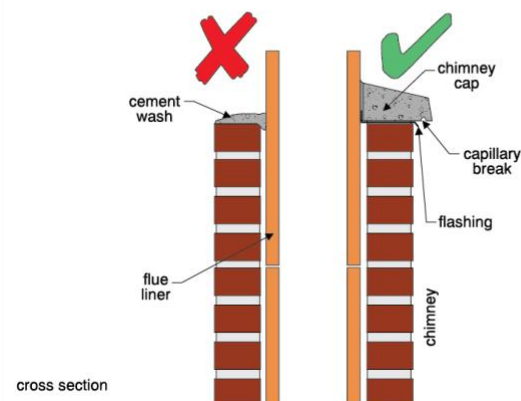
A larger chimney requires more work to frame and pour the mortar, so a proper crown is not made as often. Many resemble the bottom right photo, with no over-hang, no drip edge and likely no gap between liner and cap. The crack in the concrete likely occurred when the flue expanded during chimney use.

Below are cross sections of a chimney showing proper and poor crown design. (Art from Carson/Dunlop)

What makes a good chimney cap?



Drip edge on cap



Large chimney with a custom-made crown.
Note: Crown overhangs bricks.
Chimney flues caulked to crown.



Poor crown, no overhang, the crack likely due to no gap between crown and flue liner, thus when liner expanded with heat the crown cracked.