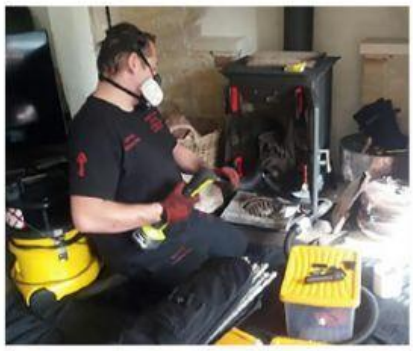
Chimney Sweeps in Victorian times and today







This role has changed greatly. They were hugely in demand in Victorian times, as almost all homes needed heat, somewhere to cook, and clean chimneys.
The 'sweeps', as they were known, used only a simple chimney sweep brush to clean the soot away.
Actually, early sweeps didn't receive pay, instead making money out of selling soot to farmers and gardeners to use as fertiliser.
During the 1960s, domestic heating and cooking became more conveniently fuelled by gas and electricity, causing the humble chimney sweep's work to dwindle.
Far from the days of workhouse boys and poor untrained men, today modern sweeps are professionals, often trained in other aspects of chimney maintenance.
With electricity prices increasing and unhappy customers spending a lot on energy, sweeps are sought after, as fireplaces become more common. They are paid in money now too!
The standard chimney sweep brush is used alongside modern tools. Technology has even influenced this long-standing role, with spinning brushes, high-tech cameras to detect blockages and online bookings.

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Contrast and compare the life of a chimney sweep in the 1900s to one now:

(Think about the people, were they rich or poor? What tools did they have? How did they get paid?)

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