

Stone Fireplaces Instructions

Guidelines for installers to fit natural stone and marble fireplaces - please leave with the householder

Important

- Serious injury may result if your fireplace is not fitted correctly
- Never allow anyone, especially a child to hang from or lean on any part of the fireplace
- Only place lightweight ornaments, e.g. vases, small clocks, candlesticks towards the back of the shelf and never on the overhang
- If in doubt contact your retailer
- This fireplace must be installed by a suitably qualified installer who has experience and competence in this field. This is not a DIY project.
- Please read these guidelines thoroughly and ensure a detailed survey is carried out before commencing any part of the installation.
- The whole installation must be in accordance with all Building Regulations, British Standards and other local regulations in force at the time.
- Please inspect all the components of this fireplace for faults or damage well before fitting. Do not install the fireplace if any fault or damage is present and, if this is the case contact Superior Fires, No claims any nature will be accepted after the fireplace has been fitted.
- Stone and marble are soft materials and can be damaged during transportation to the customer's house and during installation. Please take every precaution and great care to protect all corners and edges at all stages of the process of storing, delivering and installing this fireplace. Ensure that there is some cardboard between mating surfaces during the positioning process. This avoids edges and corners blowing or chipping.
- Limestone is a natural product and as such will show variations in colour, veining, fossilising and other characteristics. These differences are part of the natural beauty of stone and are not considered to be defects.
- Small chips and scratches can easily be sanded out using 150 grit silicon carbide paper.
- Some fireplaces may still contain moisture and will appear darker in colour as a result. Over time the fireplace will dry due to stone thickness, water components taking longer than others to dry due to stone thickness, water content, ambient conditions and installation method.

Preparation

In the case of limestone, surfaces that are fixed to the floor or walls should be sealed with PVA or similar. This also applies to the surface to which the stone is fixed. The wall, floor, and structural hearth should be completely dry before installation.

Along with the standard "tools of the trade" you will need the following items which are not supplied with the fireplace:

- High temperature clear mastic, marble glue, two-part resin bond or similar
- DO NOT USE GYPSUM ADHESIVES**
- Lime, washed silver sand - other materials will stain the fireplace
 - Vermiculite or similar backfill material
 - 150 Grit silicon carbide paper
 - Packing pieces, e.g. Cardboard
 - Use PVA to seal the faces coming in contact with mortar or adhesives

Fixing Surfaces

- Only fix this fireplace to the building structure. Do not fix to plaster, dry lining, stud walls or similar. Use suitable fixings (not supplied)
- The mechanical fixings provided must be used as described. Adhesives alone are not adequate
- Ensure that all horizontal surfaces are level and vertical surfaces are plumb.
- Ensure that these surfaces are sound, dry and are free of any dust, chimney sweepings or grease before fixing any parts of the fireplaces.
- This fireplace will be sealed after manufacture, however, please seal the surface of the stone which will be in contact with the adhesives used.

Installation

1. Where solid fuel is to be burned, hearths and back panels must be cut to allow for expansion, and slabbed/back filled. There are some appliances which do not require the hearth to be cut - refer to the manufacture instructions in these cases.
2. Centre, level and bed the hearth in position. Hearths must be bedded completely (not spot bedding) on a mix of washed silver sand, white cement (snowcrete), and lime. Under no circumstances should grey cement, builders sand, caelite bonding or similar be used as these products will discolour the stone. Allow the hearth bed to cure sufficiently so to avoid 'slumping' when weight is applied.
3. Fix the supplied brackets to the fixing blocks, mark the holes in the chimney breast and glue and screw the legs to the wall. See diagram 1.
4. For solid, one-piece back panels and cast iron inserts - place the back panel onto the hearth, taking care not to drag it across the hearth. Temporarily position the legs and adjust the position of the back panel so that, when the outside of each leg touches the chimney breast, the back panel touches the inner jambs (or rebate) of each leg. In the case of a cast iron fireplace please ensure that the castings is not twisted before permanent fixing. At this stage remove legs and, if necessary, conduct a smoke test. Fix and seal the back panel in place.
5. For three-piece back panels - After measuring the correct position, fix the legs to the wall as above. The three-piece back panel can then be placed in position, through not fixed. The back panel can now be centred and fixed using mastic or suitable adhesive and the edges filled and sealed with lime mortar and finally back filled as necessary. NOTE - some fires are fitted using a clamp system through the fire and anchoring behind the lintel of the builders filled to prevent over tightening causing damage to the slips. See diagram 2.
6. Next fix the header in place. Where the header is "open topped" follow the instructions for the legs - see 2 above. Where the header is "close topped", follow the procedure outlined for the shelf - see 7 below.
7. Glue the dowels (provided) into holes in the rear of the shelf (or closed header) and offer the shelf (or closed header) up into position, marking the location of the dowels on the wall. Drill 7mm diameter holes to accept the dowels. Fully fill the dowel holes in the wall with glue and position the shelf (or closed header) in its final location, gluing it to the rest of the fireplace and wall. See diagram 3
Hint - some fitters do not fit the dowels first and use a spot of mastic in the hole in the shelf (or closed header) in order to mark where to drill the holes in the wall, and then they will glue the dowels in place.

Notes

8. Please ensure that you thoroughly mask visible areas of the fireplace before allowing glues or mastic to spill as these will cause unsightly marks and cannot be removed from porous surfaces.
9. Incorrect installation could cause 'staining' or discolouration of the stone. These fireplaces should only be installed by people who are fully trained and familiar with natural stone.
10. No responsibility will be accepted for incorrect installation, as this is the responsibility of the installer/fitter.

Cleaning/Finishing

Having completed the installation, the fireplace should be cleaned with warm soapy water remove any fixing materials residue. Any small chips or scratches or stubborn stains can be remedied using a fine grade 'wet & dry' sandpaper. If required the joints can be grouted using a suitable coloured tile grout, however this is entirely at the discretion of the installer.

The fireplace should now be left to thoroughly dry and then sealed with appropriate sealer. We recommend Lithofin Stainstop. This will protect the stone against accidental stains such as red wine, tea and coffee. This may darken the stone slightly. Until sealed the fireplace will be very susceptible to marking.

Diagrams

