



GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLERS TO FIT CAPITAL NATURAL STONE AND MARBLE FIREPLACES

IMPORTANT

- Please read these guidelines thoroughly before commencing any part of the installation and leave them with the user.
- This fireplace must be installed by a suitably qualified installer who has experience and competence in this field of work.
- 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 Capital Fireplaces. No claims of any nature will be accepted after the fireplace has been fitted.
- Stone and marble are soft materials and can easily be damaged during transportation to the customers 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.
- Small chips and scratches can easily be sanded out using 150 grit silicon carbide paper.
- Stone and marble are natural products and as such will show variations in colour, veining, fossiling and other characteristics. These differences are part of the natural beauty of stone and are not considered to be defects.
- Some fireplaces may still contain moisture and will appear darker in colour as a result. Over time the fireplace will dry to a uniform colour, with some components taking longer than others to dry due to stone thickness, water content, ambient conditions and installation.

PREPARATION

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
- Lime, washed silver sand – other materials will stain the fireplace
- Vermiculite or similar backfill material
- 150 grit silicon carbide paper
- Packing pieces

FIXING SURFACES

- 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 fireplace.
- 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

- 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 products which do not require the hearth to be cut – refer to the manufacturer’s instructions in these cases.
- Centre and level and bed the hearth in position. Hearths should be bedded on a mix of washed silver sand, white cement (Snowcrete), and lime. Under no circumstances should grey cement, builders sand, Carlite Bonding or similar be used as these products will discolour the stone. Allow the hearth to dry sufficiently so as to avoid ‘slumping’ when weight is applied.
- Position legs on hearth so as to correspond with the header. In the case of the fireplace suites (fireplaces which are supplied with the hearth and three piece back panel in the same crate), the hearths have small location blocks to act as a guide for the position of the legs. See diagram 1 on the back cover
- 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 2 on the back cover.
- *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 casting is not twisted before permanent fixing. At this stage remove the legs and, if necessary, conduct a smoke test. Fix and seal the back panel in place.

- *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, though not fixed. The header/fireplace lintel should now be fixed in place using brackets or adhesive. Care should be taken to ensure any mouldings/chamfers line up. Place the shelf centrally on the fireplace and fix in place. The back panel can now be centred and fixed using mastic or coving 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 opening. In these cases it is essential that the top slip is packed and back filled to prevent over tightening causing damage to the top slip. See diagram 3 on the back cover
- Next fix the header. In some cases there will be a closed top header which needs to be installed with the z bracket supplied along with the normal mastic/fixative. This is similar to the method of fixing the shelves – see diagram 4 on the back cover.
- Finally fix the shelf using the z bracket and mastic/glue

NOTES

- Please ensure that you thoroughly mask visible areas of the fireplace before allowing glues or mastics to spill as these will cause unsightly marks and cannot be removed from porous surfaces.
- 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.
- No responsibility will be accepted for incorrect installation, as this is the responsibility of the retail outlet.

CLEANING/FINISHING

Having completed the installation, the fireplace should be cleaned with warm soapy water. Any small chips or scratches or stubborn stains can be remedied using 150 grit silicon carbide paper. If required the joints can be grouted using a suitable coloured tile grout mixed with sanding dust from the stone, however this is entirely at the discretion of the installer. This method can also be used to fill small chips, but requires trial and error in order to match the colour accurately.

From time to time the fireplace should be cleaned and minor repairs carried out and then sealed. We recommend Lithofin Stainstop. This will protect the stone against most accidental stains. This may darken the stone slightly.