

# CAPITAL FIREPLACES

LEADING SUPPLIER OF LUXURY FIREPLACES

## FARMHOUSE SECTIONAL HEARTH INSTALLATION AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

(PLEASE LEAVE THESE NOTES WITH THE END USER)

**PRODUCT TO BE INSTALLED BY A COMPETENT FIREPLACE INSTALLER ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE CURRENT INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS.**

### NOTES ON THE PRODUCT

These sectional hearth pieces are made from Limestone. Limestone is a natural material and not a man made material. As such it can have variations in colour and consistency. This is part of the appeal of the products and such variations are not considered to be defects.

Limestone is relatively soft material and can be damaged. Care should be taken during transportation and installation. The material can be scratched if care is not taken.

Limestone is a porous material and it can be stained or discoloured if it comes in contact with oil, wax, acidic or alkaline products.

Preparation of the product is necessary prior to installation. After installation the care and maintenance of the material requires products that have been specifically formulated to deal with the chemistry of this stone.

Limestone can also absorb water so care needs to be taken to ensure the product is dry and sealed before installation. If not and the hearth is sealed when wet then water will be sealed into the product and can cause colour discolouration.

### BEFORE INSTALLATION

The sectional hearth pieces need to be washed in clear water to remove any dust or dirt that is on the surface of the material.

Only clear water should be used and the water used to clean the product should be changed regularly to ensure any residual dust is removed from the surface, not just moved to another area.

Once the sectional hearth pieces are dry, all surfaces that will come into contact with mortar or adhesives (the sides and underside of the hearth) should be sealed using PVA. The PVA should be allowed to dry prior to installation.

The top side of the hearth should also be sealed with a limestone sealer. (Capital Stone Sealer) and allowed to dry. If Capital Stone Sealer is not used care should be taken to ensure the sealer used is suitable for limestone. Some sealers will change the colour of the material.

## INSTALLATION

The sectional hearths have been designed to fit both in front of the chamber and inside the chamber. The various different sizes allow for differing site situations.

The sectional hearth pieces need to be centred, levelled and bedded into position ensuring that current industry standards are followed with respect to constructional and building regulations relevant to constructional and superimposed hearths.

If the hearths need to be bedded then they should be bedded completely and not spot bedded. The bedding material should be a mix of washed silver sand, white cement (Snowcrete, Luxcrete).

Since Limestone is porous, it is possible for discolouration from products like builder's sand, Carlite bonding or grey cement to seep into the limestone even if the underside and sides of the material have been sealed with PVA.

Where solid fuel is to be burned above or behind the hearth pieces or a high temperature output stove is to be used in the chamber then space must be left for expansion. We recommend for both expansion and for the aesthetic appeal of the product that a gap of between 15-20mm is left between each sectional piece.

For solid fuel applications where a basket or a cast iron arch has been chosen and a single piece "back hearth" could be used then that piece should be cut in half and an expansion joint left.

The expansion joint areas should then be grouted using an appropriate material for example dyed mortar. Again care should be taken that the grouting material chosen should not spill onto the top surface or front edges of the hearth as this may stain or discolour the product.

## AFTERCARE

Having completed the installation the hearth should be cleaned using a soft brush. This will remove any dust or installation residue.

If you need to use a damp cloth and water then the water used needs to be clean and changed regularly and the cloth needs to be new, colourless and soft, lint free.

Do not use soapy water, household cleaners, acids or other products as a cleaning material as these may cause damage or staining to the surface or to the grout. Only use products that have been specifically chemically formulated to clean Limestone.

If you need to clean the product then use a Ph neutral stone floor cleaner. Lifothin Wash and Clean is a suitable product.

Over time the product will change slightly in colour and this is natural for any limestone products coming in contact with heat and the environment.

There are specialist colour restoring (or colour changing materials) that can be used such as LTP Blackstone sealer. However care should be taken as these products can and will significantly alter the products appearance and colour.

## GENERAL NOTES

These sectional hearth pieces can be cut to the required size. A diamond cutting blade should be used and the correct health and safety equipment is essential.

When using sectional pieces it is prudent to check all pieces prior to installation both in terms of size and quality. Should any issues arise please contact your retailer directly.