

HOW TO INSTALL YOUR NEW STONE FACING

General considerations

Nature's unending creativity provides the variation in pattern and color giving your natural stone its one-of-a-kind appeal. You can be assured that your premium facing is like no other in the world.

This facing is designed to be installed with a mantel or other companion piece to cover its unpolished outer edge. If the stone is used by itself, polishing the outer edges or installing a 3/4" wood strip or trim around the unpolished edge can add an elegant look.

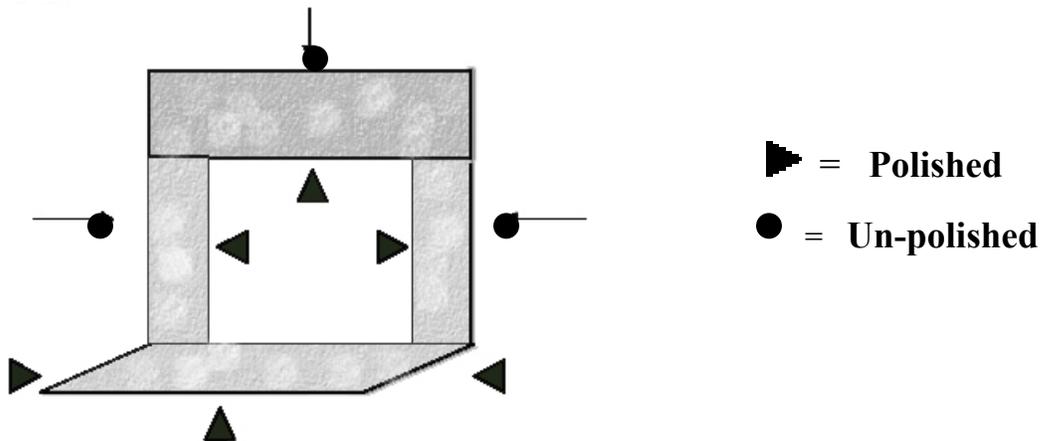
To determine if the stone legs need to be cut, measure from the floor up to a point on the face of fireplace approximately 1/2" above any grills, hoods, or louvers, and subtract 3/4" for thickness of hearth. This is your optimum leg length. It is customary to leave from 1/4" to 1/2" between the inside of legs and the fireplace opening. Again, don't cover any louvers or opening panels. Stone is non-combustible however, it is still recommended to consult local building codes and the fireplace manufacturer's installation manual for any concerns relating to facing installation.

Handling the stone

We recommend that two people lift the stone carefully out of its packaging. (Hearths can weigh 50 lbs or more) Be sure to carry the stone on edge as much as possible. Carrying it flat can result in breakage, especially with larger pieces. Once removed, stack the pieces (back to back or, polish side to polish side) at a high angle, against the wall.

Edges

Noted below, the hearth has had three edges polished; legs and header are polished on one long edge each. The hearth should be positioned with the unpolished edge against the front of the fireplace, the legs sit vertically on top of the hearth, one on each side of the fireplace with the polished edges toward the firebox, and the header will rest on top of legs with its polished edge down.



Tools and Supplies

Level

Thin-set

300 degrees clear silicone in 10.3 oz tubes (Black & Clear)

Caulking gun, Cedar wooden tapered shims

Clean rag, tape measure

Broom, dustpan

Aluminum tape or equivalent (**See step #2**)

Hammer or pry-bar / Steel Wool

Installation

The following instructions apply to a situation where the fireplace is installed in the wall with its face flush with the outer surface of the wall. If your situation varies from these conditions (e.g., if the fireplace is installed in a cabinet that sits in the room), some of the following methods may still apply, but you should consult suppliers' instructions, or seek professional assistance.



1. Ensure the fireplace is installed plumb and level. The face flushes with the outer surface of the wall. Correct any problems before proceeding. (It is a good practice to inspect the top of the firebox for trash or other combustible materials and remove them.)



2. **(Optional step.)** *In regions with extreme temperature variations adding an additional thermal barrier is recommended. With aluminum duct tape, tape around the firebox sealing the opening between the drywall and the firebox. (Available at local hardware stores.)*



3. Make sure that the floor area in front of the fireplace is level and clean, and has minimal flex. Correct any problems before proceeding. **(For wood-burning applications, a thermal break will need to be laid prior to hearth installation. "Micor" or "Wonder board" is recommended. See fireplace manufactures recommendations.**



4. **A.** Measure and mark off the area around the firebox to determine where the hearth is going to fit on center. This will provide the area in which to lay the thin set. Following the "thin set" or mortar instructions, spread the mortar so that it extends to all the corners. Using a 3/8" trowel, trowel out the mortar allowing it to fully support the hearth. **B.** Lay hearth. **C.** Shimming should not be necessary using thin set.



TIP: It is recommended at this step to place a hearth cover / cardboard to protect the hearth from any dropped tools or adhesives. This will also help protect the stone from other trades who may be working around you.



5. Now set the stone legs in position on the hearth, on either side of the fireplace, adjusting for fit. Apply the silicone adhesive in 3 or 4 places on the back of the legs and push them against the wall, making sure that the **polished** edges face toward each other and the fireplace. For faster silicone set up, pull the leg back / away from the wall and allow the silicone to "string". Wait 30 seconds and re-position leg.

Tip: If you are not using a mantel, make sure that the outer edges of the header and legs line up. If they do not, move the legs until they do, or remove and cut the header to fit.



6. Apply silicone adhesive in 4 places (two at each end) to the back of the header at its outer ends and set it on top of legs. Pull back for 30 seconds and re-position header.
7. Push firmly against the wall, and make sure that everything is adjusted, as you want it. You may want to use a few pieces of aluminum duct tape, to ensure that legs and header stay in position until the silicone dries. **(It may be necessary to build a wooden support to hold header in place.)**



8. Check with local building codes as it may be necessary to caulk the inside front bottom edge with clear or black silicone.
9. This completes the installation.

Additional precautionary steps may include the following:

- a. Warning tape across facing.
- b. Instamatic photos for record
- c. Hearth cover

