

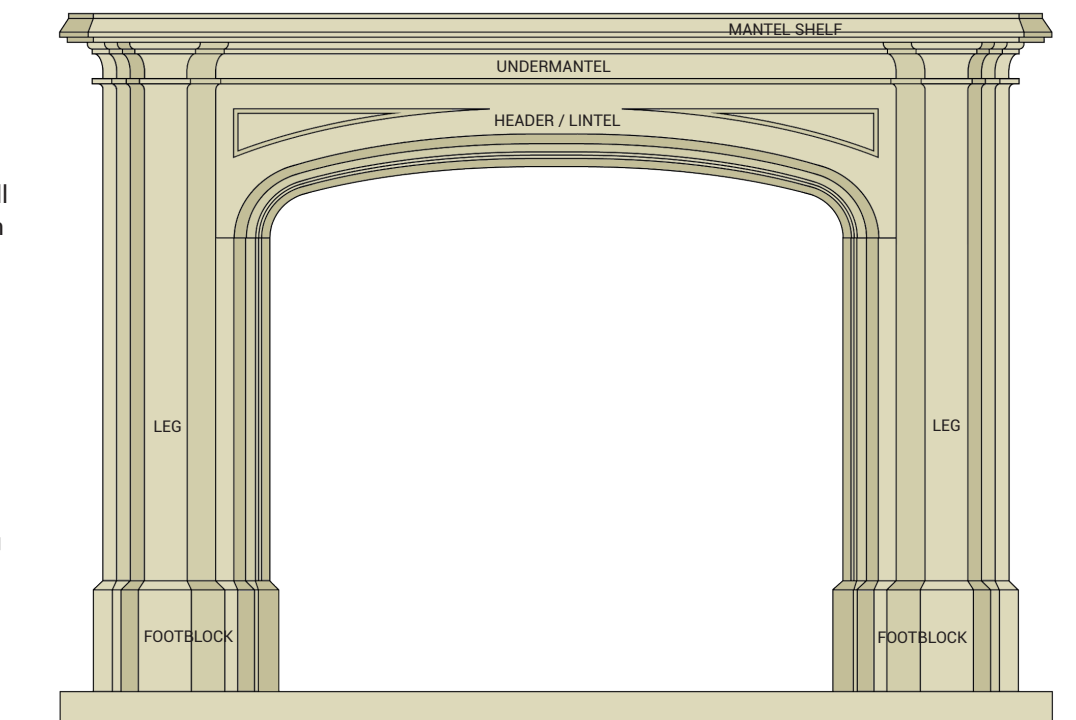
PUGIN GOTHIC FITTING GUIDE

This guide is designed to give an overview of the fitting procedure for a Pugin Gothic fire surround.

All the holes and channels will have been pre-drilled / cut for you when your surround arrives and all the pins and fixings will have been included.

All the adhesives and equipment required are readily available from your local DIY / Hardware store.

It is important that you read the fitting guide fully before you start to fit your hearth and surround to make sure you are aware of the whole fitting process and that you have all the necessary equipment before you start.



BEFORE YOU START

It is important to remember that your surround is carved from solid stone and so some parts can be very heavy. You will need at least two people to safely complete the fitting of the surround.

There are a few tools that you will need to help with the fitting of your fire surround

ESSENTIALS

Tape measure & pencil

Spirit level, ideally around 800-1000 mm in length or longer (a shorter spirit level will not be as accurate over wide distances)

Spacers (will be in your fitting kit if one was ordered)

Adhesive (will be in your fitting kit if one was ordered, alternatively see SUGGESTED ADHESIVES below) & trowel for mixing

Tile adhesive (see SUGGESTED ADHESIVES below)

Pieces of unwanted cardboard (to mix up the glue & to protect the legs on the hearth), that can be thrown away once finished

Drill with assorted masonry drill bits

2 buckets and a sponge

Rubber mallet, small tool for mixing and applying the glue & masking tape and pencil

SUGGESTED ADHESIVES

(Based on products we use and have used to fit fire surrounds, other similar products may be available locally, always consult with the retailer if unsure a product is fit for purpose)

JOLLY - A two part resin adhesive available in various colors, has a curing time that is dependent on stone and ambient temperature, we recommend testing a small amount first so you are aware how long you have to work with it before it cures. Curing times also vary depending on the color, for example the gold & clear glues cure slower than white or straw colors. SEE NOTES ON PAGE. 6

ARDEX X7RW - Is a flexible white tile adhesive, it has a relatively quick curing time and does not slump as much as cement

CHEMICAL ADHESIVES - Due to recent Health & Safety recommendations for the fitting of fire surrounds we now use the pin & bracket fixing procedures shown in these instructions. There are now more pins and fixings so it may be easier to effectively get adhesive in and around the holes and pins with a chemical adhesive than with the Jolly resin adhesive. You will need a caulking gun to apply any of the Chemical adhesives available.

Two products that we have used are -

FISCHER F-BOND, FIP300SF Polyester styrene free 300ml & RAWLPLUG R-KEN+ Polyester styrene free 300ml, there is very little difference in the curing times of either of these two products, at 20°C the FISCHER has a work time of 5-10 mins and a curing time of 60 mins and the RAWLPLUG has a work time of 7 mins and a curing time of 50 mins

NOTE: Stated working/curing times are taken from the technical data of the two products and will vary depending on stone, product and ambient temperature and as such should be used as a guide only. We will always recommend testing a small amount of any adhesive first so you are fully aware of the working times you have.

1. LAYING THE HEARTH

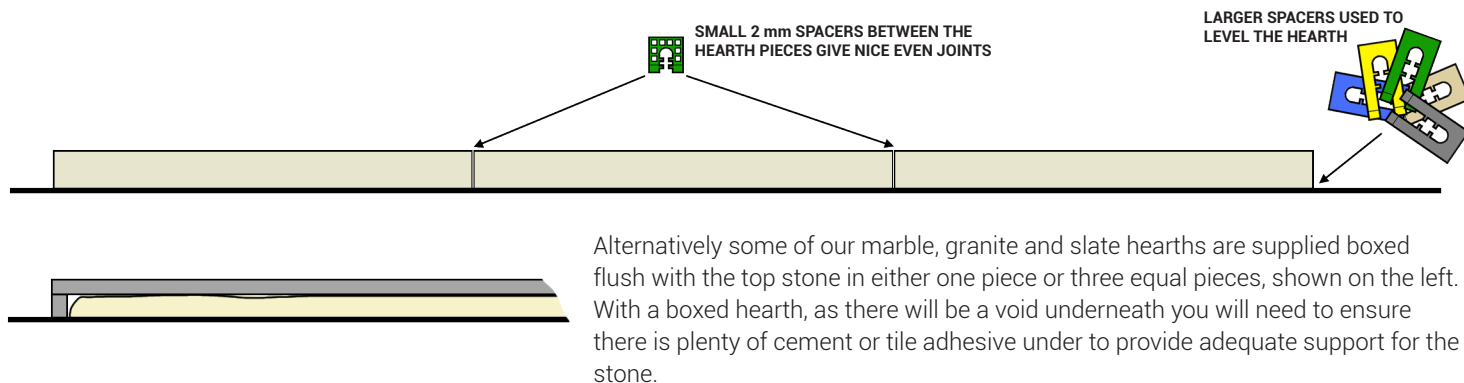
This is probably the most important step, ensuring the hearth is nice and level will make the fitting easier. The hearth will usually come in a solid 50 mm thick stone in one piece or three equal pieces.

We would generally use a mix of glue and tile adhesive to fix down hearths, and a quick curing adhesive on the spacers, this enables the rest of the fitting to carry on straight away. The tile adhesive then forms a supporting bed for the hearth once it sets fully.

Lay the hearth ensuring it is level both along its length and width and running parallel to the face of the chimney breast. The hearth will need to be laid centrally to your opening, if the opening is on a chimney breast and this is not central you will need to decide if you are going to centralise off the opening or the chimney breast.

If you are having an inner hearth also this will need to be layed at the same time to ensure it runs in with the outer hearth.

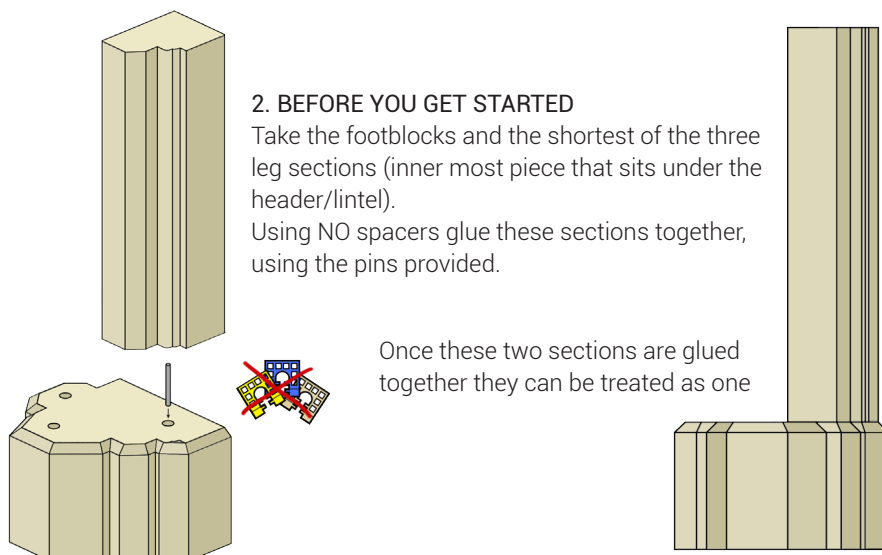
NOTE: You can just use tile adhesive to lay the hearths which may be easier for you but you will need to let the adhesive cure fully before continuing with fitting the surround



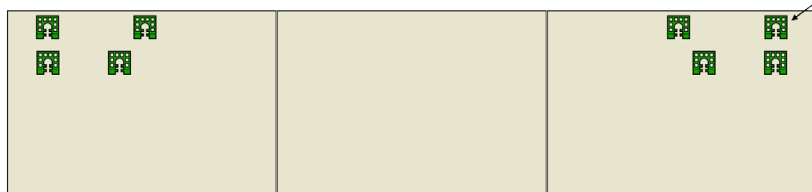
2. BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Take the footblocks and the shortest of the three leg sections (inner most piece that sits under the header/lintel).

Using NO spacers glue these sections together, using the pins provided.



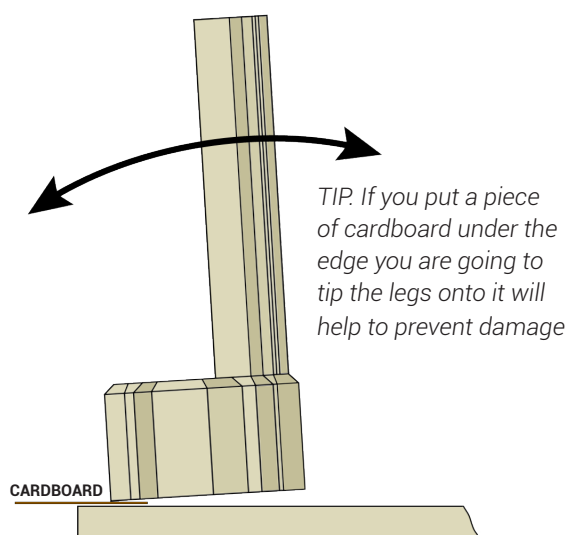
SMALL 2 mm SPACERS ON TOP OF THE HEARTH, ROUGHLY WHERE THE LEGS WILL BE PLACED



3. GETTING THE LEGS IN PLACE

It is important that you always have spacers (or cardboard when initially moving pieces around) between two pieces of stone, this protects the stone and also enables you to move the pieces around easier.

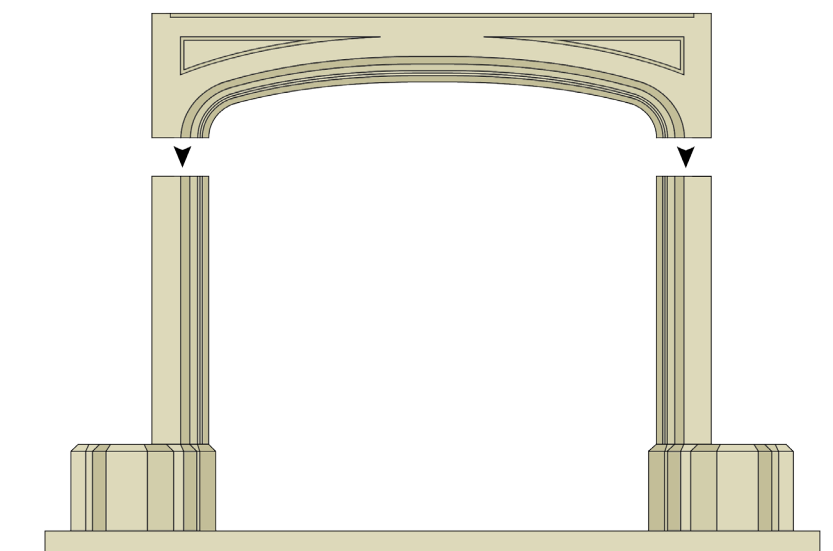
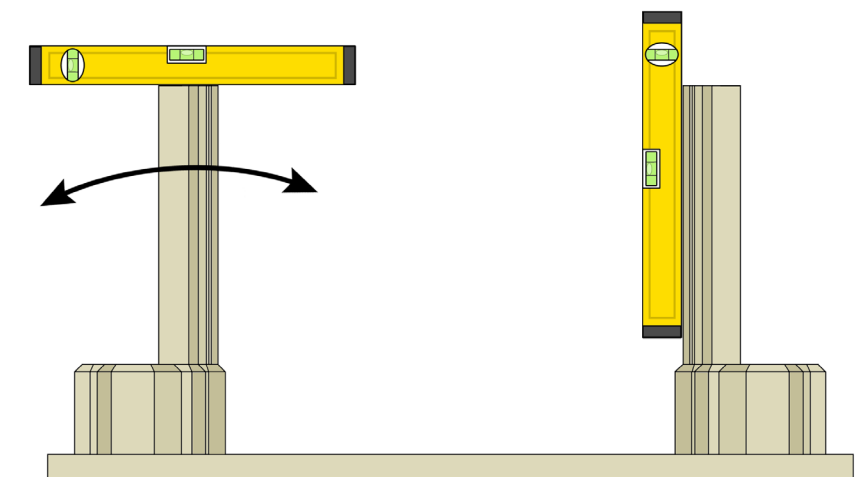
Place the legs on the hearth in roughly the right place on to spacers as shown then you can measure the header length. The header length will be the distance the legs have to be apart



With a spirit level make sure the legs are both upright side to side and front to back and adjust with small spacers as required.

There are not many walls that are perfectly level so it is important to use common sense when leveling the legs, eg. if your wall tips back you may need to have the legs tip back a little to keep the joint between the back of the legs and the wall as even as possible. It may also be necessary to trim a little brick or plaster to get the legs back against the wall.

Keep an eye on the distance so you do not drift too far off while levelling. If you have a long spirit level you can check the legs are level as a whole.



4. DRY RUN THE HEADER

When you are happy the legs are nice and level place 2 or 3 small green spacers on top of each leg and then carefully lift the header up on top of them.

You can now use the rubber mallet to carefully tap the pieces to make sure everything lines up. At this joint you may need to adjust the position of the legs a little, you can do this with the rubber mallet. Once you are happy, with a pencil mark the position of the legs and header on the walls and hearth. There are two channels with holes cut into the top of the header, mark these on the wall then carefully remove the header without moving the legs.

Once the header is removed the two holes you marked for the header will need to be drilled, ideally they will need to be 80-100 mm deep and the larger the better. The pins supplied are 6 mm so the holes can be 10-12 mm to give you plenty of room to get the pins in place.

TIP: The rubber mallet may leave some small black marks on the stone, these and the pencil marks can all be removed with sandpaper once you have finished the fitting



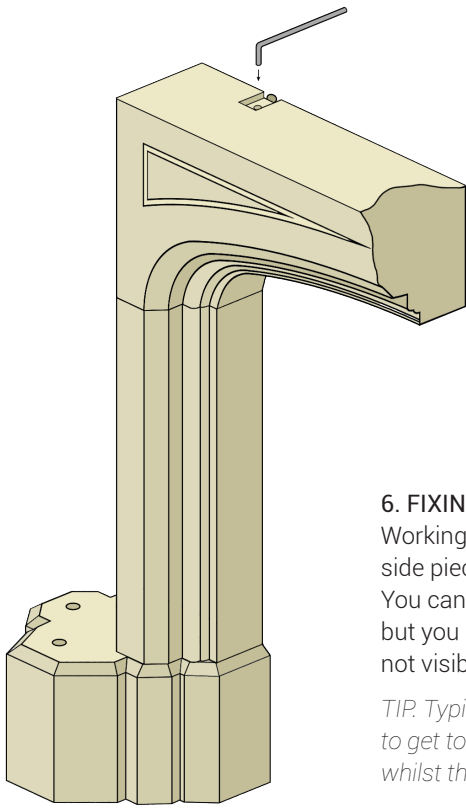
5. THE BIG GLUE

We refer to the next step as the big glue, once the holes have been drilled in the wall it is time to fix everything down. As you are going to fix the legs to the hearth and the header in one step it is important you are prepared and ready.

You may need a bit of time to get everything glued in one so it is important to use an adhesive you are both comfortable with and also that will give you a long enough working time.

eg. With the 2 part Jolly resin - the clear or gold colors have a much longer working time than the white or straw colors. If you are unsure always test some first. You could also use one of the chemical fixatives for this step.

TIP: If you are really unsure about using some of the quicker acting adhesives for this step, Gripfill or Stixall may also be considered as they have quite a long working time. You will however have to leave the fitting after the big glue to allow them to set properly before you continue. Always consult the product packaging for curing times and if in any doubt check with the retailer for suitability.



Once you have tapped everything into place and you are happy that everything is where it should be give the adhesive time to cure before moving onto the next stage.

When the glue has cured fix the L shaped pins into the holes you drilled in the wall. You should have 4 x L shaped pins, you need the 2 shorter ones for the header.

(if all your pins are the same length use any 2 but they will need to be cut to length)

They can be cut down and/or bent if needed to ensure a good fit in the holes, make sure they fit before you try an glue them into place.

It will probably be easier for you to fix these in place with a chemical fixative. They come with a long nossle which will be easier to get into the holes.

6. FIXING THE LEG PIECES

Working on one leg at a time take the front and side pieces of each leg and stand them in place. You can use 1 mm spacers under these sections but you may need to cut them in half so they are not visible in the joints.

TIP. Typically these sections can be a bit of trouble to get to sit correctly and you will need to hold them whilst the glue cures.

7. MARKING AND DRILLING THE WALL

With the leg sections in place carefully mark the wall with a pencil. One person may need to hold the sections while the second person marks the wall. Once the wall is marked the leg sections can be removed and stood up against the wall while you drill the holes. The larger the better just like you drilled for the header.

Once happy you can glue the leg sections into place, starting with the side section making sure to get plenty of glue around the pins that go into the footblock and up into the leg.

Before placing the front section apply small

TIP. The resin goes rubbery before it goes hard, it is important to remove any excess that squeezes through the joints during the rubbery stage.

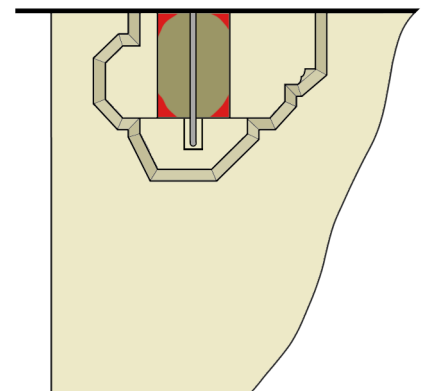
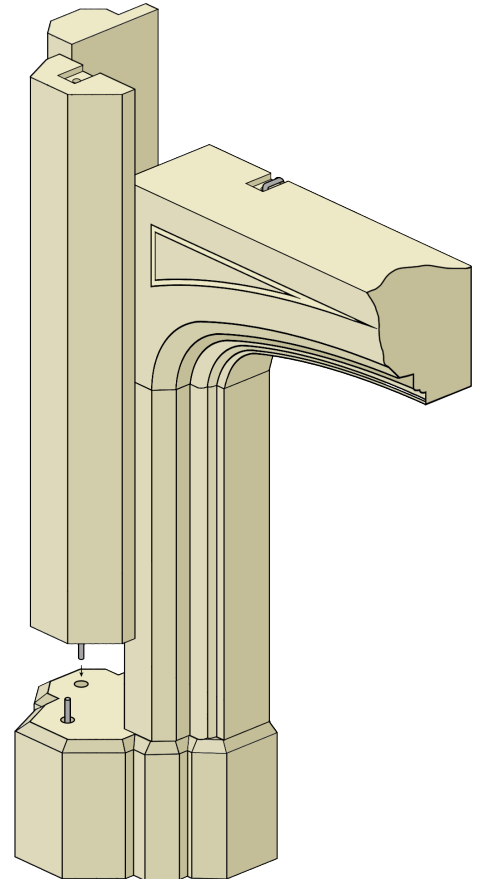
amounts of glue onto the front facing edges of the inner and side sections of the leg so the front section will glue onto them.

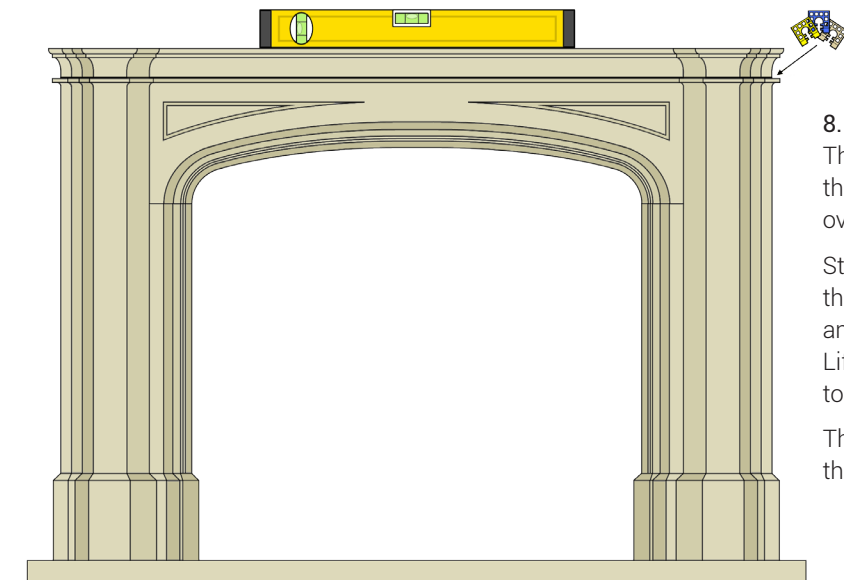
Once both sections are in place glue in the pin. Now the leg sections and the pin are fixed in place you will probably need to hold them in position until the glue cures, this should take no more than 5 mins.

Once cured mix up some more glue and apply inside against the joints to help bond all the pieces together, you can also do the same against the wall.

Shown in red in the diagram on the right.

Fix the side and front sections of the second leg in exactly the same way.





8. FIXING THE UNDERMANTEL & MANTEL SHELF

The undermantel and the mantel shelf are simply glued to the lower sections of the surround as there is minimal overhang on both pieces.

Start by placing the undermantel onto small green spacers, then take a spirit level and make sure it is level front to back and side to side, adjusting accordingly with small spacers. Lift off, apply glue and replace back in position tapping the top surface to ensure it is sitting correctly on the spacers.

The process of fixing the mantel shelf is exactly the same as the undermantel.

9. FILLING JOINTS

Fill all the joints between the stone parts and in the hearth, washing down with water and a sponge as you go to remove any excess filler or caulk.

The guide below will help you choose the best material for your surround.

LIMESTONE - White tile adhesive does a good job for limestone fire surrounds, if it is very white you may need to add a tiny amount of buff colored cementone to get a better color match.

SANDSTONE - Sand & White Cement is ideal but it can be difficult to get it to stay in the joints. Sand mixed with white tile adhesive stays in the joints better and is similar in color

WHITE MARBLE - White Decorators Caulk. For some older white marble surrounds the caulk may be a little too white so you can use white tile adhesive instead as this is usually not quite as brilliant white in color

SLATE & GRANITE - White tile cement mixed with black cementone, you will need quite a lot of the cementone to get a black rather than a dark grey.

WARNING. With the black cementone be extra carefull when filling the joints on the hearth if your finished floor surface is already installed, this can be very messy when removing the excess and may stain carpets.

If you have a slate or granite hearth always leave filling these joints until last and try to keep the cementone filler away from all other surfaces. It may also require extra washig down to remove all excess color.



8. FINISHING OFF

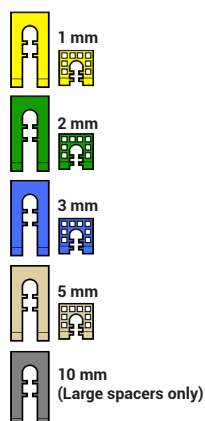
Once all the joints are filled the only thing left to do is to give the surround a good wash down with clean water and a sponge.

Limestone and sandstone fire surrounds may require a couple of washes to get all the residual dust off.

TIP. If you have a limestone or sandstone surround and intend on sealing the stone to prevent any staining it is important that you give the surround plenty of time to dry out first before sealing, this may take a few days or even a few weeks depending on the temperature in the room.

NOTES

1. We always start with 2 mm spacers for all the joints and adjust as needed to get pieces straight and level. Larger spacers are used for the hearth and smaller ones for the rest of the surround. You can easily cut the spacers with a sharp stanley knife if needed.
2. If you use a two part resin some of them go through a rubbery stage before they go completely hard, it is important to remove any excess that squeezes through the joints when it is in the rubbery stage. It will be much easier to remove when rubbery than hard. Most of the chemical adhesives also have a rubbery or gel stage before they cure completely
3. After caulking it is important to wash down the surround thorouly to ensure any excess caulking is removed from the surround before it sets.
4. Sandstone and limestone fire surrounds and hearths can be gently sanded with a 80 or 220 grit sand paper to remove any pencil marks and adhesive or caulk that has dried hard. Extreme caution must be taken if your surround or hearth has a high polish surface so as not to damage the finish.
5. When marking the position of the leg/footblock on the wall and hearth, rather than pencil you can use masking tape instead.
6. If you have fitted a granite hearth it may be advisable to cover the area not needed to complete the installation to help prevent any damage or scratches being made on the hearth. It is not possible (or incredibly difficult) to re-polish a granite hearth once installed.



IF WE SUPPLIED A FITTING KIT

The fitting kit will come with an assortment of both large and small spacers, the thickness and color is shown on the left. The fitting kits now also include a small white spacer (not shown), this is 1.5 mm thick.

The fire surround comes with the stonework and the metal fixings required to fit the surround, and the fitting kit also includes 2 part resin adhesive appropriate for your surround.

2 part resin adhesive - Comes in a 1 litre size time with a tube of hardener, generally you can work to 1 x golf ball size from the tin to 1 x pea size hardener.

AFTER THE ANTIQUE LIMITED supplies this guide for the fitting of fire surrounds supplied only by After the Antique only. To be used as a guide only, we cannot take any responsibility for the correct installation of your fire surround.

Installation of fireplaces, hearths, gas fire, flues and their related appliances are governed within the UK by building regulations approved document J 2010 edition.

Document J outlines various British Standards that cover all aspect of fireplace installtion. A number of those listed include BS5871 part 3, B5440 part 1, BS1251, BS8303 part 3, BS6461, BS5258 and BS8000. Also the fixing of stonework is covered by BS8298 'Code of Practice for Design and Installation of Natural Stone Cladding and Lining'

While many stages of the surround installation are suitable for someone experienced in general building practices, others like the installation of appliances for solid fuel, flue lining, gas work and the sweeping/testing of flues must be carried out by a suitably qualified professional.

In your own interest and safety, it is law that all gas appliances are installed by a competent person, In accordance with the current Gas Safety Regulations by a registered GAS SAFE installer.

In your iwn interest and safety, it is law that all solid fuel appliances are installed by a competent person who is HETAS registered.

If you have any questions at all regarding your installation please contact us on 01366 327 210

SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES