

# TREE HUGGERS? ACTUALLY, IT'S WORSE THAN THAT.

## FIREPLACE MANTELS GENERAL PRODUCT HANDLING & INSTALLATION

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

- **Installer/Builder Qualifications:** An experienced installer/builder who has completed interior and exterior projects similar in material, design and extent indicated for the project, whose work has resulted in interior and exterior installations of similar products with a record of successful in-service performance.
- **Customer Installation Qualifications:** Leave yourself ample time to adequately plan each step of your project. Proper planning and correct knowledge will yield the best results possible. If you encounter an issue regarding the installation, always consult with an installation professional.
- **Installation Qualifications:** Installation will require either architectural plans or on-site planning to determine the actual method(s) of installation to meet local building codes. Such planning and details of all projects are the responsibility of the customer or customers' agent.
- **Complexity of Projects:** Complexity of projects will vary greatly. Consult a professional installer for more information.

### STORAGE AND HANDLING

- Do not install wood products until they have had adequate time to adjust to the relative humidity of the new environment (within 2-1/2% Moisture Content).
- Protect wood products from exposure to moisture and like conditions. Do not deliver wood products until after concrete, masonry, plaster, ceramic tile and similar wet work is completely cured and dried.
- Store wood products in a dry, warm, well-ventilated, weather-tight location.
- Move wood products into spaces where they will be installed at least seven to ten days before installation.

### PROJECT CONDITIONS

- **Conditioning:** Maintain an ambient temperature between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit in spaces to receive wood products for at least seven days before installation, during installation, and for at least seven days after installation. After post-installation period, maintain relative humidity and ambient temperature planned for building occupants.
- Do not install wood products until it has adjusted to the relative humidity and temperature of the space where it is to be installed.

### INSTALLATION TIPS & IDEAS

- **2x4 Anchor:** Cut a groove in the back of the beam approximately the size of a 2x4. Mount a 2x4 on the wall center from the side as well as height. The beam should then slide over the 2x4 giving you a spot to screw the beam to the 2x4 on the wall.
- **Hidden Mounts:** Route out anchors in the back of the beam. Use metal plates to hang the beam from the fireplace brackets.
- **Laying Mantle:** End blocks of beams can also be used to hold up the beam on the wall. Use two beam end blocks protruding from the fireplace to lay the mantle onto.
- **Brick/Stone Brackets:** Coordinate with your chimney builder to create stone brackets onto which you can lay the mantle

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- Compound Miter Saw
- Table Saw
- Drill & Bits
- Adhesives (optional)
- Fasteners (as needed)



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## **FIREPLACE MANTELS GENERAL PRODUCT HANDLING & INSTALLATION**

- Tape Measure or Folding Ruler
- Level (laser optional)
- Chalk Line & Chalk
- Hammer
- Chisel

## **SURFACE/SITE PREPARATION**

- Make sure to have a secure support system for the mantle to attach to.

## **FINISHING**

- No finish is required (unless desired).
- Always follow the manufacturers recommended installation instructions for all products used.
- Always experiment with finishes on a cut-off or on a section that will not be seen (all woods take various products differently).
- Never use coarse grit sandpaper on rustic grade antique wood surfaces. Due to the thin patina achieved on rustic grade wood, drum sanders are not recommended. If needed, lightly sand rustic surfaces with 220 grit or finer sandpaper on an orbital sander.

## **CARE & MAINTENANCE**

- Never use a scrubbing or scouring pad that may damage or scratch any surface. Use only those cleaning products and pads that are recommended by the product manufacturer or that are deemed wood safe.
- Use wood cleaning products only.
- Keep the mantle away from heavy smoke which over time will damage/blacken the mantle and could prove a fire hazard.