



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for choosing an Americast Architectural Stone, LLC mantel. We hope you enjoy your mantel for years to come.

Please ensure you handle the product with care to avoid damage to the surfaces of your mantel components. Avoid unnecessary contact with objects that may scratch or scuff any of the surfaces. Carry the mantel components on edge and store in their original packaging when not in use at room temperature.

Americast mantel kits contain all the mantel components required for a typical installation. This includes: mantel shelf (1), mantel legs (2), hearth (1), surround filler panels (1 – header, 2 – leg) (Lower Riser Panel is optional and ordered separately)

Note: If surround fillers are not provided by Americast, ensure that non-combustible filler panels are utilized as the mantel legs and shelf are designed and require filler panels to assist in supporting the bearing surface of the inside edges of the mantel shelf and legs against the wall. Surround fillers should be 1” thickness and extend at least a minimum of 1” behind the inside of the mantel legs or shelf. Check with your local building code official for clearances and materials requirements between mantel components and firebox opening.

Important: Americast mantels are ideally applied to solid, stable level flat substrates such as drywall or plaster. Wood surfaces are typically not stable and may cause cracks in components or filled joints.

Mantel components may be secured using high strength construction adhesive that is suitable for plaster or masonry material.

We recommend, assuring for a proper fit, layout and dry fit the entire mantel before applying any adhesive.

Tools and Materials required to install mantel:

1. Measuring tape
2. High Strength Construction Adhesive
3. Latex caulk (Paintable) – one small tube supplied
4. Thinset for installing the hearth
5. Power drill
6. 2” x 4” x 48” wood blocking
7. Saw (masonry blade)
8. Shims to level mantel components
9. Level
10. 3 – 3” long wood screws to secure shelf (supplied)
11. 2 – 1” long wood screws to help hold mantel legs in place (supplied)
12. Bracing material to help support filler panels

Installation of Hearth and Filler Panels:

- 2) Install the hearth first: Ensure that the hearth is centered on the firebox opening and sets tightly against the wall. Set the hearth level on a bed of thin-set masonry material and ensure there are no voids between the underside of the hearth and the floor for complete and continuous support throughout the complete area of the hearth. Especially make sure the corners are well supported and in full contact to avoid cracking.
- 3) Install the mantel leg filler panels: Dry fit the mantel shelf and legs against the wall to properly position the mantel prior to installation. With mantel shelf and legs in place, use a pencil to trace the inside edge of the mantel shelf and mantel legs. Remove mantel shelf and legs. Place leg fillers against firebox and ensure that the filler panels extend at least 1” inside the cavity of the mantel legs.

Note: Americast mantels are designed with a cavity in both mantel legs to allow for the position of the surround filler to be adjusted to accommodate different size firebox openings. Cutting is typically only required to adjust based on the height required for the firebox opening.

Cut the leg surround fillers as required to ensure that the surround fits securely on the hearth and the height is appropriate to the desired height of the firebox. Ensure that the height of both leg surrounds are level to ensure the header panel fits level on top of the leg panels. Apply adhesive to the back of the leg fillers and securely brace the panel legs until adhesive sets.

Components may be secured using the high-strength construction adhesive that is suitable for plaster or masonry materials and potentially high temperature applications. Avoid adhesive contact to the exposed surfaces of any of the mantel components. If excess adhesive is noted use a finishing nail or a sharp “v” shaped scraper to remove any excess adhesive from the joints. Clean off excess adhesive immediately as instructed by the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

- 4) Install the mantel shelf filler panel: Americast mantels are designed with a cavity in the shelf to allow for the position of the surround filler to be adjusted to accommodate different size firebox openings. Make adjustments as required. Typically the shelf filler does not require any cutting. Apply adhesive to the back of the shelf filler and securely brace the panel until adhesive sets.
- 5) Filler riser surrounds, sold separately, may be installed if desired. Cut the riser panel so that the panel fits snugly between the mantel legs. The bottom edge may also be cut to adjust for the height of the firebox openings bottom edge. Apply adhesive to the back of the riser filler and securely brace the panel until adhesive sets. (note: in some instances, the shelf filler panel may be cut allowing for the excess shelf filler panel to be used for the filler riser)

Installation of Mantel Shelf and Legs:

- 1) Install mantel legs: Americast mantel legs can be cut at the base in order to adjust the overall height of the mantel to accommodate the firebox opening. Place the mantel leg in place and secure, using the 1" long wood screws provided, to the wall using metal strips attached to the top of the mantel legs. Ensure that the mantel legs overlap the leg fillers and are positioned to properly support the mantel shelf. Apply a small bead of adhesive to the back of the leg that is flush with the wall. This will ensure that the mantel leg is placed securely against the wall.
- 2) Install mantel shelf: Americast mantel shelves require wood blocking to assist in securing the shelf to the wall. Place mantel shelf on top of the mantel legs to ensure a proper installation. Using a pencil, trace the top of the shelf along the wall. Remove shelf and measure the mantel shelf thickness. Secure the 2x4 wood blocking to the wall below the pencil line allowing for the thickness of the measured shelf.

Using 3 wood screws, attach the 2x4 wood blocking to the wall studs for the greatest support. Apply adhesive to the top edge of the wood block prior to installing the mantel shelf.

Place the mantel shelf on top of the mantel legs, with the inside edge of the shelf on top of the wood blocking. Using 3 wood screws (provided), secure the mantel shelf to the wood block. Americast mantel shelf comes with holes pre-drilled to ensure proper positioning. In the event the holes are not pre-drilled, drill pilot holes approximately 1 1/2" from the wall placing one screw in the center of the mantel and the other two screws 20" on either side of the centerline. (Drill holes at a slight angle in order to secure directly into the wood blocking)

Note: Do not over tighten the screws so as not to damage the mantel shelf.

Finishing

Using color appropriate latex caulk (small tube may be provided with mantel), place a thin bead of caulk around the entire surface of the mantel shelf and legs to fill all joints and gaps around the mantel.