

Natural Stone by Ideal®



INSTALLATION & OPERATION GUIDE

THE KING OF HEARTHS ADVANTAGE

Add warmth and elegance to any outdoor space with a unique King of Hearths outdoor fireplace. No other outdoor fireplace matches the easy set up and quality construction.

- ✓ Simple, easy-to-handle, 2- or 3-piece mortarless assembly
- ✓ Engineered with high-strength, reinforced lightweight concrete, to stand the test of time and the rigors of New England's climate
- ✓ Fire brick is pre-installed, saving valuable time and money at the job site
- ✓ No frost footings required in colder climates

BEFORE INSTALLATION

The King of Hearths fireplaces are meant to enhance outdoor living year round. Enjoying one means using it safely. Every city and town has restrictions to safeguard life, property and public welfare from the hazards of fire. **Always check with your local building and fire department in order to comply with their regulations and code requirements.**

In general, when placing the units, careful consideration must be given to clearances from combustible materials. They should not be used indoors or inside a roofed area. A spark arrestor and chimney cap are required (the stack of the fireplace is equipped to accept a 13" x 13" size). Combustible materials should not be within eight feet of the cap and a minimum of four feet from the front of the fireplace opening. These include items such as wood decking, furniture and the like. In addition, look for items such as power lines and trees to ensure you have safe clearance.

PAD REQUIREMENTS

The King of Hearth units must be placed on an adequate pad to support the structure and provide stability. The firebox and chimney pieces are stacked one on top of the other. They do not require mortar, nor is it necessary to pour a pad the depth required for traditional frost foundations. The pad – typically 6" thick – can be placed on excavated soil that is firm and stable. Loam, roots and plant matter must be removed. If the soil is clay, additional excavation may be needed and the clay replaced with gravel material. Compact or hand tamp the soil until it is level and firmly packed.

Minimum pad dimensions are:

- **King Arthur:** 50 inches wide by 40 inches deep
- **Guinevere:** 42 inches wide by 32 inches deep

The pad should be poured a minimum depth of 6". To prevent the pad from splitting, a grid of #4 (½" dia.) steel rebar must be installed 12" on center, mid-point of the slab's thickness. If using a side box, it will be necessary to enlarge the width of the pad by 24". Allow the pad to cure before placing the fireplace.

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FIREPLACE PLACEMENT

Once the pad has completely cured, the fireplace is ready for placement. The fireplace is shipped on a sturdy wood pallet. The pallet provides proper weight distribution of the firebox when transporting. Remove and set aside the stack(s) from the firebox, but leave the firebox on the pallet until it is ready to be set in place. Two fork pockets molded into the firebox facilitate placement when lifting it off of the pallet and onto the slab. Use caution when moving and lifting any of the components to prevent damage and personal injury. When placing the firebox, set it on center in full contact with the slab.

In the event you choose to install the optional side boxes, position accordingly to assure equal weight distribution. You will notice that the height is slightly higher than the flat part of the firebox. This is done intentionally to create a pitch to prevent water and or ice pooling where the two precast units join. It is not necessary to anchor the side box to the firebox. The weight of the side box is sufficient provided the surface it rests on is stable.

Place the stack piece by centering it on the top of the firebox and install the spark arrestor/chimney cap. It is not necessary to mortar the stack. When properly faced, the veneer will lock in and seal the stack. Note that the King Arthur has a 2-piece stack to accommodate the larger firebox.

SEASONING THE FIREPLACE

Before veneering your fireplace, build a few small fires to “season” the concrete. All materials, including concrete, react to heat. This “pre-burn” tempers the unit and helps bring the materials to a near final rest before the veneer is applied. When lighting the fire, use the cast iron grate provided and be sure to have the spark arrestor and chimney cap in-place.

FINISHING THE FIREPLACE

King of Hearths fireplaces can be finished with natural stone veneer, clay brick, or manufactured concrete units such as our Olde Boston® WallStone. The semi-rough surface applied when the units are produced ensures that a good bond is achieved between the precast unit and the finish material chosen. We recommend using ARDEX X77, a fiber-reinforced tile and stone mortar, to adhere stone veneer. Isolate the bottom of the veneer from the concrete pad using a ¼" expansion type material. This will allow the veneer to move independently from the hearth or slab as expansion and contraction occurs with changes in temperature.

PROPER BURNING & MAINTENANCE

When using your fireplace, always place fire wood on the cast iron grate provided. The grate is an important accessory that helps keep logs in place and from rolling forward. It also provides air circulation so the fire burns uniformly and reflects more heat. Use only paper or kindling to start fires – never use accelerants such as gasoline or combustible fuel. To burn a fire safely, build it slowly, adding more wood as it heats. Do not overload it. **The fireplace is meant to burn wood and only wood.** It should not be used to incinerate trash and debris. Do not burn plastic or wood treated with preservatives.

While concrete does not ignite, it can crack when exposed to extremely hot fires. Periodically check the condition of the firebrick. Replace or re-line as needed. Your local dealer typically sells firebrick and refractory cement, as well as pointing trowels, jointers and other tools you may need.

FIRE SAFETY

Tend your fires at all times and keep children, family members and guests at a safe distance. Avoid contact with the outside walls of the fireplace which could be hot to the touch after prolonged fires. Have a fire extinguisher or garden hose close by. **Never leave the fire unattended and be sure it is completely extinguished before leaving the area.** Protect your investment and use common sense and fire safety!

NOTE: Stress cracks in fireplaces and ovens are micro fractures that are a normal occurrence and do not affect the structural integrity of the unit, nor are grounds for rejection.

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