

# **OUTDOOR FIREPLACES**



# **INSTALLATION & OPERATION GUIDE**

### Items To Consider Before Installation

HearthScapes outdoor wood fireplaces, crafted by Ideal Block, represent a premium precast fireplace designed to elevate your outdoor living experience. These fireplaces are intended exclusively for outdoor use and should not be placed within enclosed structures. Ensuring proper clearances in relation to combustible materials is essential. Local regulations must be adhered to and take precedence over any recommendations outlined in this document. Please consult your local Building and Fire Departments for regulations pertinent to your city or town.

The chimney extension is designed to accept a 14"x14" top-mount chimney cap and spark arrestor, which must be used with your HearthScapes unit. When using a 13"x13" clay flue, the unit will accept a 13"x13" flue mount chimney cap and spark arrestor. Maintain a clearance of at least 8 feet from the cap to any combustible materials. Additionally, create a minimum 4-foot clear area in front of the fireplace opening, free from combustible items such as wood decking and furniture. Ideal may advise, but ultimately the proper placement and use of the HearthScapes unit is the responsibility of the installer and owner.

Exercise caution and assess your surroundings for potential hazards, including power lines and trees, to guarantee a safe clearance in your outdoor living area.

### Pad Requirements

Your HearthScapes by Ideal outdoor fireplace must be placed on Turfstone pavers or a concrete pad. As the fireplace requires minimal assembly or mortar, a traditional frost foundation may not be essential. However, it is crucial to prepare the base properly. The minimum dimensions for the pad are as follows:

Fairfield Series: 50 inches wide by 36 inches deep Belknap Series: 50 inches wide by 36 inches deep

If a single universal side storage box is used, enlarge the pad width by 27 inches. If two are being used, enlarge the pad width by 54 inches.

For a gravel base topped with Turfstone, start by clearing all organic material, including plant matter and topsoil, in the area you wish to prepare. Clay soils may require more excavation. Replace it with at least 10 inches of gravel material, compacted in multiple lifts, following a process similar to preparing a driveway.

If you opt to pour a concrete pad, ensure a minimum depth of 6 inches of concrete on top of a prepared and compacted gravel base of at least 6 inches. Within the concrete pad, install rebar in a checkerboard pattern with 12-inch centers to prevent the pad from splitting and exerting undue pressure on the fireplace. Generally, the pad should be allowed to cure for 7 days. Consult the concrete manufacturer for specific cure time guidance.

### Fireplace Placement

Upon completing the installation of your concrete or Turfstone pad, you can proceed to position your fireplace into place. The fireplace will be delivered on a robust pallet, facilitating safe transportation to its final location. It is advised that you keep the fireplace on the pallet until it is positioned adjacent to the slab or pad. The pallet ensures proper weight distribution, especially over uneven terrain. Begin by removing the chimney extension from the firebox.

Locate the two fork pockets on the bottom of the firebox, which can be used to lift the fireplace from its pallet. For equal weight distribution, place and center the fireplace on your pad. If a single side box is being used, place the fireplace 3 inches from the outside of the pad on the side opposite the box. If two boxes are being used, center the fireplace on the pad as usual. Next, mount and secure the chimney extension with a heat-resistant mortar, ensuring it is centered on the opening at the top of the firebox.

If you choose to increase the height of the chimney, we recommend a maximum of 4 chimney extensions on top of a HearthScapes unit. Extending the height beyond four extensions can be done with 4" cored CMUs. Should you position the fireplace unit close to a detached combustible structure, such as a pergola, arbor, gazebo, or pavilion, it is necessary to insert a 13"x13" clay flue liner within the chimney extensions. The chimney should clear the combustible structure by a minimum of 3 ft. The extensions are sized perfectly to accept the liner and require no additional lintel or support piece. Note: Going higher than four chimney extensions may alter the draft of your fireplace, depending on the environment and location of the unit.

Last, place universal side storage boxes if being used. Because of their unique design, the boxes are reversible to accommodate both left and right-side placement. You'll notice that it's height is intentionally slightly greater than the vertical flat part on the side of the firebox. This design ensures the proper slope in the veneer, preventing water and ice from pooling at the joint of the two precast units. Anchoring the side box to the firebox is unnecessary due to the weight of the side box and the securing action of the veneer.

## Conditioning Your Fireplace

It is imperative to season your fireplace. This process aids in bringing the materials to a near-final state before applying the facing. The recommended seasoning practice is listed below for each of these fires. In between each fire, allow the fireplace to cool down for 30 minutes.

Fire 1

o Smallest fire: Once a steady fire is established, a consistent flame should burn for 1 hour.

o Medium fire: Once a steady fire is established, a consistent flame should burn for 1.5 hours

Fire 3

o Largest fire: Once a steady fire is established, a consistent flame should burn for 2 hours

A proper chimney cap and spark arrestor must be installed. Your HearthScapes by Ideal fireplace is equipped with pre-installed firebrick. You must utilize the log grate, which is provided with each unit, to place the firewood on.

These preliminary fires are necessary to temper the unit. During this process, cracks may appear on the surface. Cracks of this nature do not affect the structural integrity or performance of the unit and are not considered defects.

HearthScapes fireplaces are specifically designed for burning firewood. Refrain from burning garbage, wood treated with preservatives, or other materials, as they can produce higher temperatures than wood. Protect your investment by avoiding the use of gasoline or other fuels to ignite your fireplace. The recommended ignition method involves using kindling, cardboard, or other fireplace specific fire starters. If you intend to equip your unit with a gas burner, contact your local Ideal Sales Representative for guidance.

## Finishing Your Fireplace

Once your HearthScapes fireplace has been properly seasoned, you may proceed to finish the exterior. The surface of our fireplaces are intentionally left with a semi-rough scratch coat, ready to accept the finish of your choice. It is recommended that you maintain a quarter-inch gap between the bottom of the fireplace veneer and the pad. This precaution is taken to prevent contact between your facing and the hearth or slab during months when some movement may occur.

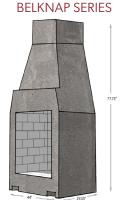
HearthScapes outdoor fireplaces can be finished with natural or manufactured stone veneer, clay brick, or concrete products, such as our Olde Boston® WallStone. Your HearthScapes by Ideal dealer is well-equipped to provide appropriate recommendations for your specific application. When installing any type of finish, follow all typical installation guidelines in relation to the product type. For veneer, it is recommended that installation be done with a high-quality stone veneer mortar, such as Ardex X77, to ensure maximum adhesion and longevity.

For necessary quantities of veneer, consult our product catalog, the color and product packaging directory, or our website.

## Fire Safety

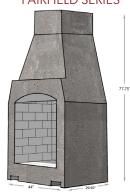
Fires should be monitored at all times, keeping people and pets at a safe distance. Avoid contact with the outside walls of the HearthScapes unit, which could be hot to the touch after prolonged fires. A fire extinguisher and/or garden hose should be close by. Never leave the fire unattended, and make sure it is completely extinguished before leaving the area. Always use common sense and practice fire safety.

We would love to receive pictures of your completed project! Our goal is to craft an outdoor ambiance that you and your loved ones will gather around to enjoy Life Embraced Outdoors.

















**UNIVERSAL SIDE** 

STOREAGE BOX