



Installation Guidelines for Non-Combustible Balmer Thin Cast Mantels and Thin Cast Mantel Kits

Tools and Materials Required:

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| 1. Power Drill | 6. Thinset for setting the hearth |
| 2. Shims to level components | 7. Level |
| 3. 2"x 4" x 48" wood blocking
to support larger mantel shelves | 8. 3" long wood screws |
| 4. Measuring Tape | 9. High-strength construction
adhesive |
| 5. Fine-toothed hand saw | 10. Bracing material |

Balmer Thin Cast Mantel and Thin Cast Mantel Kit material meets the requirement for non-combustibility when tested in accordance to ASTM E-136.

Please refer to the respective Balmer Mantel Fact Sheet accessible from our website at www.balmer.com for component dimensions.

Overview

Balmer Thin Cast Mantel Kits contain the components required for a typical installation. They include mantel surround components (legs and shelf); surround filler panels (header, legs, and riser) and a hearth. Surround filler panels (header and legs) are required to support the bearing surface of the inside edges of the mantel shelf and legs against the wall on the firebox side. If surround filler panels and a hearth are not supplied by Balmer, ensure that non-combustible filler panels located immediately around the firebox opening are built up to a 1" thickness and extend at least 1" behind the inside edges of the mantel surround components. Check with your local building code official for clearance and material requirements between mantel components and the firebox opening.

Handle products with care to avoid damage to ornamental surfaces and fracturing of components. Avoid unnecessary contact of exposed faces of components with objects that may scratch or scuff surfaces. Carry components on edge and store them in their original packaging at room temperature.

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

Important: Layout and dry fit the entire mantel before applying any adhesive.

Components may be secured using a high strength construction adhesive that is suitable for plaster or masonry material and potentially high temperature application. Use bracing to secure components tightly to the wall until the adhesive sets. Avoid adhesive on exposed component surfaces. Use a finishing nail or a small piece of plastic (shaped like a 'V') to remove excess adhesive at joints. Clean off excess adhesive immediately as required by the adhesive manufacturer's instructions.

Hearth and Surround Filler Panels Installation

1. Install the hearth first, centered on the firebox opening and set tightly to the wall. Set the hearth level on a bed of thinset masonry material and ensure that there are no voids between the floor and underside of the hearth. Provide complete and continuous support for the hearth, especially at the corners. The exposed edges of Balmer Thin Cast surround filler panels and hearths, are beveled to eliminate sharp corners.
2. Install the surround filler panel legs. Use pencil lines to outline the inside edges of the mantel shelf and legs.

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Note Balmer Thin Cast Mantels require surround filler panels (header and legs) to support the bearing surface of the inside edges of the mantel shelf and legs against the wall on the firebox side, and to cover the wall area between the firebox opening and mantel components.

The cavity behind Balmer Thin Cast Mantel components is designed to allow for the position of the surround filler panels to be adjusted and accommodate a wide range of firebox openings. Cutting is typically required only on the Balmer filler panel legs to achieve the desired height.

Cut the surround filler panel legs as required and ensure the cut sides of Balmer Thin Cast filler panels terminate at the hearth and behind mantel components with the beveled edges exposed. When set in place, the level height of each filler panel leg must be identical to provide for a level filler panel header. Use shims to level the filler panel legs. Apply a generous and continuous bead of adhesive to ensure continuous contact between the wall and the bedding surfaces of the filler panel legs. Brace the filler panel legs securely until the adhesive sets.

3. Install the surround filler panel header. **The cavity behind the Balmer Thin Cast Mantel components is designed to allow for the position of the surround filler panels to be adjusted to accommodate a wide range of firebox openings.** The Balmer Thin Cast filler panel header typically does not have to be cut, however, ensure the beveled edge is exposed when installed. Apply a generous amount of adhesive to ensure continuous contact between the wall and the bedding surface of the filler panel header. Brace the header securely until the adhesive sets.
4. If applicable, install the surround filler riser. The beveled edge of the riser should be exposed and located on the firebox side. Cut the riser panel so that it fits snugly between the mantel legs. The bottom edge may also be cut if a height adjustment is required. Apply a generous and continuous bead of adhesive on the back of the surround filler panel riser, set it in place and brace it securely until the adhesive sets.

Mantel Installation

1. Install the mantel legs. **Note:** The mantel legs can be cut at the base to adjust the overall height of the mantel. Ensure that each mantel leg overlaps its respective surround filler panel. When set in place, the level height of each mantel leg must be identical to provide for a level mantel shelf. Use shims to level the mantel legs. Apply a generous and continuous bead of adhesive to ensure continuous contact between the wall and the bedding surfaces of the mantel legs. Brace the mantel legs securely until the adhesive sets.
2. Install the mantel shelf last. **Note: Larger mantel shelves** are cast with a cavity in the back to accommodate wood blocking for support. Locate the wood blocking position by offsetting the material thickness at the top of the shelf from a pencil line indicating the top edge of the mantel shelf when set on the mantel legs. Screw the wood blocking with wood screws into wall studs for the greatest support. Apply a generous amount of adhesive to the bedding surfaces of the mantel shelf and the top of the wood blocking to ensure continuous contact with the wall. Apply adhesive on the top of the wood blocking and continuously along its length so that the mantel shelf will settle into the adhesive as it is lowered onto the mantel legs. Use bracing to secure the mantel shelf tightly to the wall until the adhesive sets.

For additional security on larger mantel shelves, install two (2) – 3" long wood screws into the top of the mantel shelf and into the wood blocking below. Locate the screw holes approximately 1" from the wall and 18" on either side of the mantel centerline. Drill pilot holes first and countersink so that the screw heads are located below the surface of the mantel shelf. Mix the filler powder provided with water to create a workable paste. Fill the screw holes and tool them to a smooth finish. The filler may be sanded lightly if required.

Finishing

If required, fill any gaps around the mantel with a paintable latex caulk. Balmer Thin Cast Mantels are factory treated with a clear water-based sealer, and do not require additional surface treatment.

Customer Service Helpline: 1-800-665-3454

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