Standard Outdoor Fireplace Installation Guidelines

Concrete Pad Preparation

Before beginning any outdoor fireplace project, make sure to check with your local building inspector regarding open fire regulations in your area.

It is recommended that any Summit Stone fireplace be installed on a 5” thick concrete pad with rebar reinforcement and proper footings. The pad should extend at least 6” beyond all sides of the proposed fireplace.

Note: The fireplace weighs approximately 8,000 lbs., including Summit Stone units, steel lintel, firebrick and incidental block.

The Summit Stone Standard Outdoor Fireplace consists of 320 Summit Stone Units and the following Package of Components:

1) (14) Summit Stone special cut units (7/8” & 9/16”)
2) (2) Summit Stone special cut lintel pad units (left and right)
3) (5) 6” Concrete Block and (5) 3” Concrete Soaps for base
4) (75) 2 1/2” thick Fire Brick for the firebox
5) (1) 10 lb. pail of Heat Stop II refractory clay for adhering fire brick
6) (1) 47” x 3 1/2” x 3 1/2” steel lintel

(Est. Weight: 8000 lbs.)

Note: Adhesive is sold separately. Approximately 10-12 tubes of adhesive will be used, depending on the quantity applied per Summit Stone unit.
Once the concrete pad is constructed and cured, begin installing the base course of the firebox. Align the firebox in the center of the pad and slightly closer to the back.

**Concrete Adhesive**

Apply recommended landscape adhesive to secure each Summit Stone unit. See your Summit Stone sales representative for information.

**Note:** Landscape adhesive should only be used with Summit Stone units, not on fire brick.
Install 3" concrete soaps, supplied with the components, laying them on their sides on top of the 6" concrete block for added filler.

CAUTION
Safety Gear Required!

Note: Always wear appropriate safety gear when cutting concrete units. Cutting should occur away from the fireplace area to avoid stains from dust or residue.

Install Summit Stone units around the firebox three courses high. This is the elevation for the fireplace hearth.
Install, but do not glue, fire brick to fit inside the firebox (this will allow rainwater drainage of firebox). It may be necessary to cut fire brick to properly fit the interior of the firebox.

Construct and glue the front hearth and side pillars on each front corner of the firebox using Summit Stone units.

Continue installing front hearth, firebox walls and pillars as shown in successive pictures.

Note: Allow room for a $1\frac{1}{4}^\text{"}$ gap between the bottom row of the firebox and the front hearth. This will help balance the Summit Stone units laid perpendicular on the top of the hearth.
If your fireplace plan will include an optional front arch, you will need to make slight installation modifications on the firebox front walls and side pillars. You cannot complete the side pillars until the front arch is in place. Refer to the procedures for Installing an Optional Front Arch explained later in this guide for complete instructions.

Continue installing units to complete firebox walls following typical fireplace installation procedures.
**Firebox Liner Installation**

Line the sides and back of the firebox with fire brick stacked on their sides (6) rows high. It is recommended that the special Heat Stop II refractory adhesive, supplied with the components, should only be used to adhere the surfaces of fire brick to each other. *Do not adhere fire brick to the Summit Stone units.*

Make sure the two specially cut left and right Summit Stone lintel units are placed properly on both sides of the firebox (top front) to accommodate the lintel.
Install steel lintel, supplied with the components, across the top of the firebox at the front to support units above.

Continue installing and gluing Summit Stone units to complete the firebox walls above the lintel and around the sides and back.

Install Summit Stone units laid flat around the top perimeter of the firebox to serve as the base of the chimney.
Continue installing courses to the top of the chimney. Step units in or out 1 1/8" on each side as shown on successive courses for a tapered chimney.

**Note:** Step units in or out 1 1/8" on ALL 4 SIDES as shown on successive courses for a tapered chimney. Stepping units in or out by 1 1/8" on each side equals one third of a Summit Stone unit. This keeps alignment proportionate and eliminates extra cutting of units.

Because of tapering, the chimney will require using the specially cut 1/3 and 2/3 Summit Stone units supplied with the components.

If you run short of 2/3 cut units, simply use two 1/3 cut units glued together. Hide one behind the other when placing them in the chimney course.

Completed Summit Stone Standard Outdoor Fireplace

Optional Front Arch Modification

**Note:** An arch feature will require approximately (35) additional Summit Stone units, depending on the arch design. You will also need the following materials:

- (1) 1/8" Plywood sheet (4' x 8')
- Diamond blade saw for cutting concrete
- Saws for wood
- (2) 2" x 4" Wood spacers
- Nails
- (15-20) Wood shims
To accommodate a front arch on your fireplace, stack and glue (3) Summit Stone units on each side of the hearth, laying them flat on top of each other. Once these units are in place, continue installation as directed for the back and sidewalls of the firebox, interior fire brick and steel lintel. Instructions for completing the arch will follow.

Measure the fireplace opening to determine the center point of the arch. Using sheets of plywood, measure and cut them to represent the opening template. Using the center point of the firebox as a reference, mark and cut desired arch from plywood. Cut two identical plywood templates to serve as the arch support that will hold up the Summit Stone units.

Nail 2" x 4" spacer boards between the plywood templates to hold them together. Insert the plywood arch template inside the fireplace opening resting on the hearth.

After the row of Summit Stone units has been installed on the steel lintel, you will complete the top of the arch using additional Summit Stone units and pieces as directed.
Installing an Optional Front Arch

Alternate placement of Summit Stone units and wood shims on each side of the arch, working toward the center. Do not glue any units until the proper spacing is determined.

Note: Always wear appropriate safety gear when cutting concrete units. Cutting should occur away from the fireplace area to avoid stains from dust or residue.

Cutting of Summit Stone units will be necessary to create wedge pieces. The arch will require (2) cut wedges placed between each full Summit Stone unit.

Replacing wood shims with (2) cut Summit Stone wedges per space. Glue all units and wedges in place around the arch.
Seasoning an Outdoor Fireplace (30-60-90 Rule)

The industry recommends a gradual seasoning for any outdoor wood burning fireplace.

After the Summit Stone Outdoor Fireplace construction is completed, follow these guidelines for the 30-60-90 Rule.

Day 1

Seasoning an Outdoor Fireplace (30-60-90 Rule)

Build a small wood fire in the fireplace that will burn for approximately 30 minutes and extinguish itself. Let the unit cool completely for a minimum of one day.

Day 1

30 min.
Proper installation and seasoning techniques will preserve the beauty and integrity of a Summit Stone Outdoor Fireplace for years of enjoyment.

Seasoning an Outdoor Fireplace (30-60-90 Rule)

After sitting for one day, start a fire capable of burning for 60 minutes. Let the fire extinguish itself and allow the unit to cool completely for a minimum of one day.

Seasoning an Outdoor Fireplace (30-60-90 Rule)

On Day 3, build a fire capable of burning for 90 minutes. Let the fire burn out and allow the unit to cool completely.

Disclaimer: This is a basic outdoor fireplace kit design. Outdoor fireplaces should always be constructed by a knowledgeable professional. Location, chimney height, live side and prevailing winds can affect the performance of an outdoor fireplace. County Materials cannot guarantee the performance or structural integrity of this fireplace. Use only industry accepted materials, cements and adhesives when constructing an outdoor fireplace. Always observe building codes and local bylaws.