Minimum Non-Combustible Board Dimensions

Minimum coverage area of non-combustible board. Any wall finish applied to shaded area must be non-combustible. We recommend extending the non-combustible board well beyond the size shown to avoid cracking due to differential shrinkage—see following pages.

Non-combustible board required thickness:
1/2 inch (13 mm)
Plan Wall Finish

Non-combustible cement board

The H6 fireplace requires a 1/2” (13 mm) thick non-combustible cement board or equivalent, to be used as a wall surface immediately above the unit—see diagram for minimum coverage.

Extending the cement board well beyond the minimum shown will help avoid cracking due to differential expansion of materials. Pre-drill cement board with oversized holes and do not over-tighten screws to avoid cracking due to heat expansion.

Standard gypsum wall board may be used beyond the perimeter of the cement board although it is preferable not to change materials to help avoid cracking.

Non-combustible finishing over cement board

Additional non-combustible material such as tile, etc., may be applied over top of the cement board or you may choose to leave it finished clean with no tile, etc.—see installation manual.

Be aware that a surround is always required and that the wall finish thickness must be taken into account for all installations other than the Fixed Framing Kit 1430.

All the other surrounds, 1435 and 1440, will accept wall finish tucked under their edge up to approximately 2” thick.
Cracking Wall Finishes

We recommend installing the optional LDK Duct Kit to reduce the wall temperatures and minimize the possibility of cracking wall finishes.

If a clean finish with no tile, etc. is desired, joints in the non-combustible board and the transition to gypsum board will require special attention if future cracking is to be controlled.

Shrinkage and differential movement of the framing and non-combustible wall board can transmit cracking through to tiles, etc.

Be aware that temperatures on the non-combustible wall surface above the appliance can exceed 200°F.

Below are some tips on how to best avoid any cracking:

• Allow materials to dry thoroughly before finishing the wall. Cement board has the ability to absorb up to 30 percent of its weight in water and may shrink as much as 1/8” over a 48” length when drying from a saturated condition. Running the fireplace for an extended period before final finishing will help drive out moisture.

• Always pre-drill screw holes through cement board and use screws with self-milling head.

• Always use mesh tape over joints.

• Always stagger joints in wall board.

• Behind joints, double up studs or use studs “on the flat” to add extra support to the joint. Adhesive on the backside of wall board behind any joints can help control differential movement.

• Use multiple, thinner coats of joint compound and allow to dry thoroughly between coats.

• Ensure framing materials are dry.

• After finishing the wall, introduce heat gradually to slowly dry any excess moisture rather than drying too fast.

Avoid notching cement board or tiles around corners of window opening and instead provide a joint that intersects the corner.