Mantel Styling Cheat Sheet

Create perfectly balanced, layered above-fireplace decor.

Master the visual triangle with these exact measurements for secure, slip-free frames and balanced greenery. Your fireplace will feel intentionally styled and beautifully cohesive.



Key Mantel Measurements

Pea-sized
Museum putty on base corners

3 inches
Secondary frame overlap

6 inches
Stems extend above anchor art

0.5 - 3 in
Vary frame depth by style

1
Heavy ceramic vase for branches

2 to 3
Stacked books to bridge gap

Flush Frame Placement

Roll museum putty into a thin snake rather than a round ball to keep the frame sitting completely flush against the mantel ledge.

Match Your Frame Styles

Find your row: **Frame profile**

Frame profile	Your pick	Why
Vintage ornate	Background anchor	Adds heavy historical character
Modern metal	Foreground accent	Provides crisp architectural lines
Canvas floater	Standalone piece	Creates subtle modern depth

Mantel Preparation Checks

- [ ] Clean the wooden or stone ledge of dust and soot.
- [ ] Measure total height of background art to establish baseline dimension.
- [ ] Verify the ceramic vase is dense and heavily weighted.
- [ ] Check that ceiling directional lights can angle over the canvas.
- [ ] Evaluate if room height requires oversized art or tighter layering.

Asymmetrical Styling Steps

- [ ] Press putty on base corners to lock heavy piece.
- [ ] Position foreground piece to overlap anchor as noted.
- [ ] Trim forking branches to extend above the artwork.
- [ ] Mix thick and thin frames to build physical depth.
- [ ] Tuck pot behind art so only trailing vines spill.
- [ ] Bridge vase gap with stacked books and candlestick.

My Mantel Measurements

Step back and admire your beautifully balanced, perfectly secured new fireplace focal point!