Stone Fireplace Planning Guide

Specify the exact materials, dimensions, and masonry techniques for a flawless build.

Plan your floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace with confidence. Use this checklist to hand your contractor a rock-solid plan.



Key Dimensions & Ratios

15-18 in
Hearth seating height

1-2 in
Solid stone hearth cap overhang

70% / 30%
Neutral field to dark accent stones

Min 18 in
Mantel clearance above firebox

2-3 in
Breathing room beside gas logs

Sponging for Historic Texture

Wait until piped mortar becomes thumb-print hard, then gently dab joints with a damp masonry sponge to remove harsh trowel lines and expose natural sand grains.

Masonry Pro Tricks

1. **Moisture barrier** Cover drywall to prevent wet mortar from causing hidden structural rot behind the fireplace.
2. **Scratch coat** Trowel mortar over lath and carve horizontal grooves so heavy veneer has texture to grab.
3. **L-shaped corner stones** Alternate long and short legs on outside edges to hide veneer thickness beautifully.
4. **Overgrout joint style** Pipe mortar flush with stone faces using a grout bag for a cohesive cottage finish.

Mounting Steel Mantel Brackets

Find your row: **Stud alignment**

Stud alignment	Your pick	Why
Studs align with brackets	Bolt into existing framing	Uses existing structural support
Studs do not align	Install 2x6 horizontal blocking	Prevents heavy wood mantel sagging

Pre-Installation Checks

- ○ Check specific gas insert manual for exact combustible clearance requirements.
- ○ Measure linear footage needed for L-shaped wrap-around corner stones.
- ○ Calculate square footage for your neutral and accent stone blend.
- ○ Verify wall stud spacing to plan bracket placement before drywalling.

Dimension & Materials Checklist

- ☐ Water-resistive barrier and expanded metal lath.
- ☐ Solid stone slab for a seamless raised hearth.
- ☐ Type S mortar for heavy vertical stone applications.
- ☐ Heavy-duty masonry grout bag for piping joints.
- ☐ Chunky 6x8 or 8x8 inch reclaimed wood beam.
- ☐ Refractory mortar for interior herringbone brick liner.
- ☐ Breathable stone sealer (apply after curing 28 days).

Project Notes

Enjoy the warmth and beauty of your stunning new living room focal point!