

MANTEL INSTALLATION GUIDE



DOCUMENT VERSION: 05.2025

FOR USE BY: INSTALLERS, CONTRACTORS, AND HOMEOWNERS

REFER TO ACCOMPANYING INSTALLATION VIDEO:

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WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Lexington Hearth mantel
- 3" x 2" mounting bracket
 - *Note: Horizon mounting bracket is 3" x 1.5"*
- Mounting hardware
 - (Qty 8) 2.5" pan-head, sharp point screws (for mounting bracket)
 - (Qty 3) 2.25" self-drilling screws (for mantel)
- Touch-up kit
 - Filler-putty
 - Touch-up paint
 - Paintbrush

TOOLS REQUIRED:

- Utility knife or scissors
- Impact driver (#2 Phillips bit)
- Power drill (1/8" metal drill bit)
- Stud finder
- Tape measure
- Level
- Pencil & felt-tip marker
- Safety glasses
- Rags
- Gloves

IMPORTANT SAFETY AND INSTALLATION NOTES

- **Do not apply adhesive tape directly to the mantel surface.** The finish will be damaged when tape is removed. Use paper or plastic to cover the surface, then secure with tape on top of the covering.
- Mantels are heavy. Always use **at least two people** when handling and installing.
- This guide covers wood framing installations only. For other wall types, consult a professional.
- If you cannot locate studs, you must open the wall and add wood or 16-gauge metal studs.
- Minimum stud requirements:
 - 48" mantel: 2 studs
 - 60" mantel: 3 studs
 - 72"-84" mantel: 4 studs
- For masonry installations, consult your fastener supplier for anchors that support **4x the load**.
- Follow local building codes and manufacturer requirements for minimum clearance above the fireplace. General guidelines for non-combustible mantel clearances are:
 - Equipment < 50,000 BTUs: **6" minimum clearance**
 - Equipment ≥ 50,000 BTUs: **12" minimum clearance**

INSTALLATION STEPS



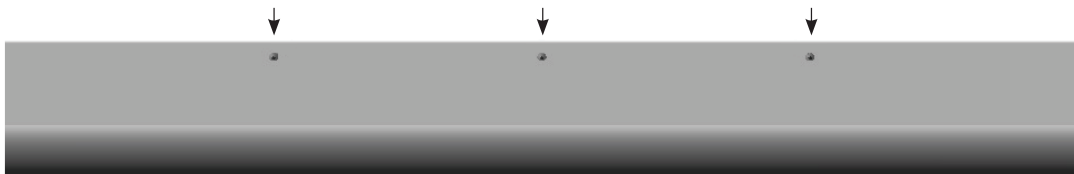
STEP 1 – UNPACK THE MANTEL

- Use gloves to avoid injury from **sharp staples** in the packaging.
- Remove the steel bracket from under the plywood and the touch-up kit from inside the mantel.
- Flatten the box for a clean workspace. Using two people, lift the mantel by its plywood base.
- **Never place the mantel directly on hard surfaces** without protective padding.

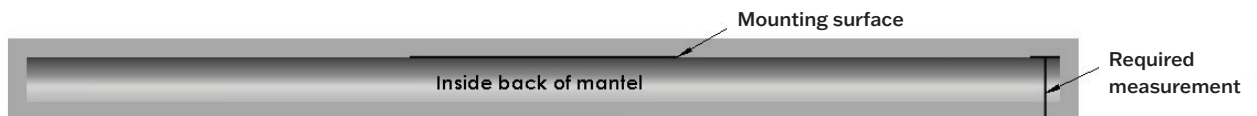


STEP 2 – INSPECT AND MEASURE

- Place the mantel top-up so the **three pre-drilled holes** face up.
- Test fit a self-drilling screw in each hole. If obstructed, clear with a 1/8" drill bit.



- Carefully flip the mantel so the back is facing up.
- Measure from the bottom of the mantel to the bracket mounting surface.
- **Record this measurement** for use in Step 3.

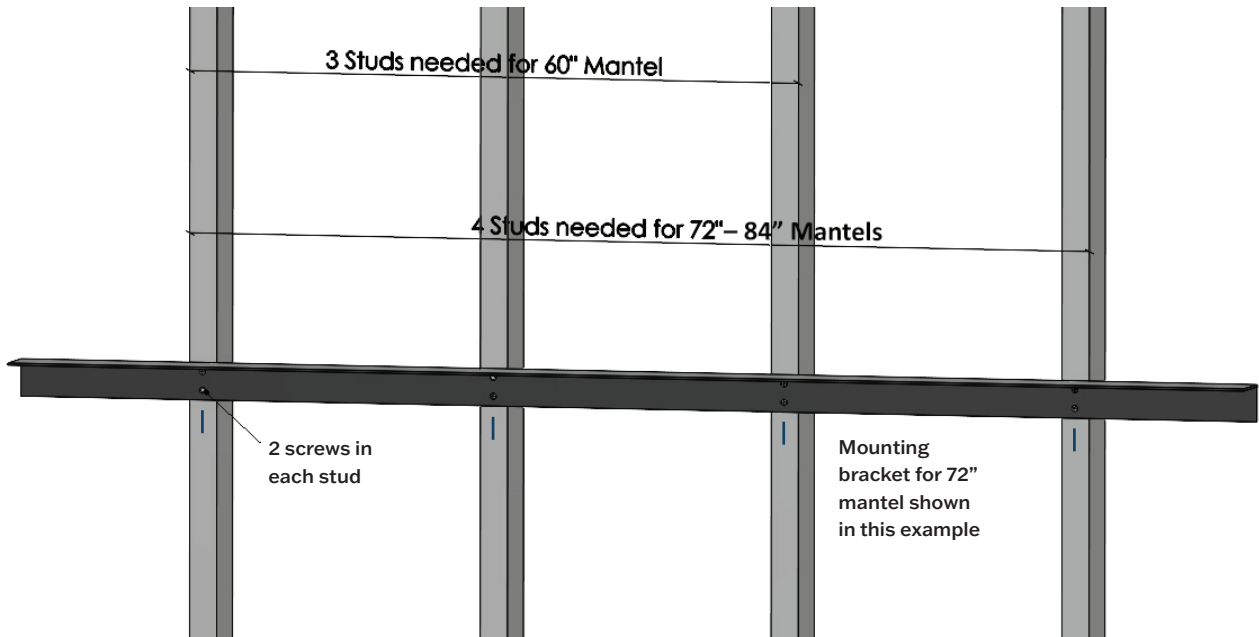


STEP 3 – DETERMINE PLACEMENT

- **Mark Bottom of Mantel (BOM):**
 - Decide the minimum clearance needed based on BTU output.
 - Make a pencil mark on the wall above the fireplace and label it "BOM."
- **Mark Bracket Position:**
 - From BOM, add the measurement from Step 2.
 - Mark this point and label it "bracket."
 - Use a level to draw a horizontal bracket line.
- **Mark Center of Fireplace:**
 - Mark the center above the fireplace opening.
 - Extend a vertical line upward to intersect with the bracket line. Label it "Center."

- **Mark Stud Locations:**

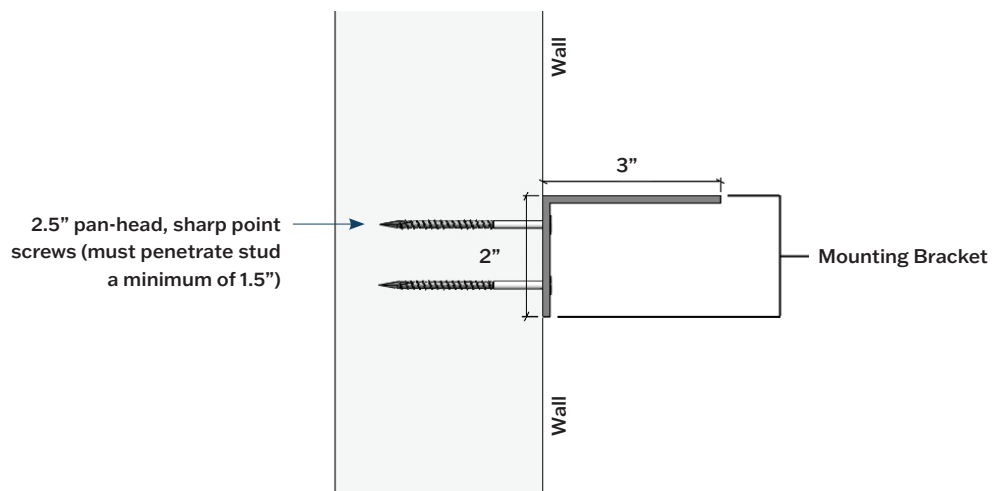
- Use a stud finder to locate studs.
- Mark each with a 1" vertical line beneath the bracket line.



STEP 4 - MOUNT THE BRACKET

Note: Horizon brackets have a 1.5" leg. All references to 2" sides should be interpreted accordingly.

- Measure the bracket and mark its center on the 3" top surface.
- Align bracket center with wall center mark.
- Transfer stud locations to the 2" leg of the bracket.
- Drill two vertically aligned 1/8" pilot holes at each stud location.
- Temporarily hold bracket with one pan-head screw. Use a level to ensure alignment.
- Secure the bracket with remaining screws, **flush but not overtightened**.

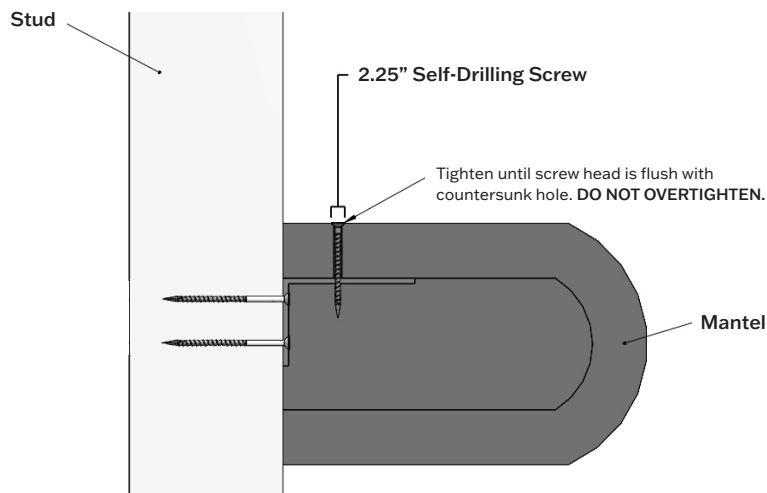




STEP 5 - INSTALL THE MANTEL

CAUTION: Apply firm, steady pressure with moderate drill speed.
Slow down when screw threads engage the bracket.

- With two people, lift and position the mantel onto the bracket.
- Align the center hole with the wall's center mark.
- Check level across mantel length and depth.
- If needed, insert **non-combustible shims** at stud locations.
- Secure the mantel using self-drilling screws. Stop once screw heads are flush with countersunk holes.



STEP 6 - FINISH AND TOUCH-UP

- Apply small amounts of **filler-putty** into the countersink areas.
- Remove excess with a damp rag.
- Allow putty to partially dry (~5-10 minutes).
- Apply light coats of **touch-up paint** with included brush.
- Blend color using a clean, damp cloth.



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