



Wolf Steel Technical Bulletin

Date: December 2010

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To: Napoleon Fireplace Dealers

Subject: Finishing Around the LHD50 and other Clean Face Fireplaces

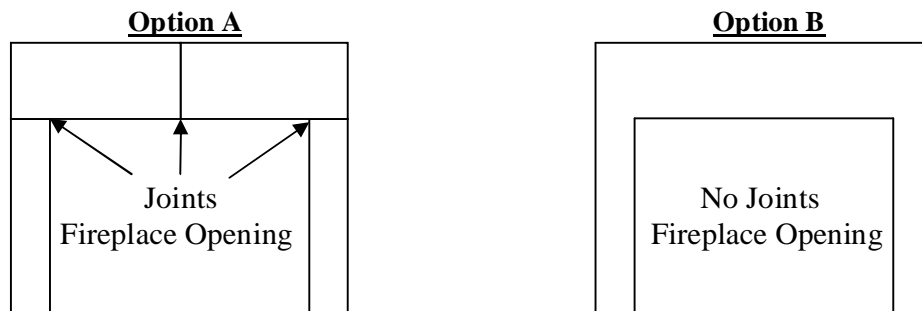
With the introduction of products like the LHD50 and the HD81, we have entered into new fireplace styles often described as the “clean look”. Designed without louvres or alternate openings to permit convectional heat exchange increases the temperature around these clean face fireplaces. While some manufacturers have designed their models with large exhaust flues to readily vent out the heat, others rely on power ventors to relieve the heat their fireplaces generate which makes these fireplaces extremely inefficient.

Napoleon Fireplaces are efficient. This is a value added feature that most customers appreciate and so our fireplaces have been designed to retain and radiate their heat back out through the glass. The result is an increased temperature in the fireplace and surrounding area. To ensure their safe installation, the inclusion of cement board to finish around the face these hot new fireplaces is necessary. As a result of these higher temperatures, some wall finishes and cement boards have cracked due to the expansion and contraction while on others there have been reports of peeling paints. (It is interesting to note that many of these fireplaces have been successfully installed and continue to look great without any deterioration of the finishing materials if properly done.)

Option A As described in our installation instructions, we recommend that the fireplace openings be surrounded with a row of ceramic tiles, marble, granite, stone or other non-combustible material to bond the cement board edge and remove any painted surfaces from the high temperature area immediately above the opening. This material can be installed over multiple pieces of cement boards with multiple joints.

Option B We do not recommend the following method of finishing around the fireplace opening as cracks may develop in the cement board and/or the paint may peel. However, if you wish to finish by painting around the opening then you must use a single piece of cement board. In our testing we determined that a commonly available product named Wonderboard provided the best performance for these applications.

Other tips include not securing the cement board to the fireplace for the first 6” from the opening and pre-drilling the screw holes if using drywall screws rather than cement board screws. The tapered head of a drywall screw compresses the material as it is drawn into the cement board which increases the stress on that material.



For more information regarding this or any other technical questions related to our products, please contact our Technical Department at: Telephone (1-888-721-8324) Fax (1-877-329-8324) or email to tech@napoleon.on.ca