



BARNDOMINIUM CLIENT GUIDE

FIREPLACE WALL PLANNING GUIDE

Fireplace Types | Wall Materials | TV Layout | Safety



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START WITH THE FIREPLACE - NOT THE FINISH

The exact appliance must be selected before the wall is framed.

1

CHOOSE THE EXPERIENCE

Ambiance only, primary room heat, backup heat, or a real wood-burning fire.

2

SELECT THE UNIT

Confirm model, size, fuel, venting, heat output, service access, and approved finishes.

3

DESIGN THE WALL

Finalize wall width, height, chase depth, hearth, mantel, TV, cabinets, and finish.

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER FIRST

Will the fireplace be electric, gas, or wood-burning? Is the wall full height? Is there a vaulted ceiling? Will the TV be above or beside it? Do you want a hearth, mantel, built-ins, or storage?

WHY EARLY SELECTION MATTERS

The model controls framing dimensions, combustible clearances, noncombustible zones, vent or chimney path, gas and electrical needs, finish attachment, heat management, and inspection requirements.

AMBIANCE

A slim electric unit may provide the look of fire with the lowest planning complexity and no combustion vent.

HEAT + CONVENIENCE

A direct-vent gas unit can provide strong heat and realistic flame, but needs fuel, venting, power, and service access.

REAL WOOD FIRE

A listed wood-burning unit requires the most space, chimney planning, hearth protection, clearances, and maintenance.

CLIENT DECISION POINT

If the fireplace is optional, decide before framing and mechanical rough-ins. Adding it later can require wall demolition, new circuits, gas work, roof penetrations, or structural changes.

PROJECT RULE

Use the approved appliance installation manual, approved plans, and requirements of the local authority. A reference photo does not establish a safe installation.

COMPARE THE THREE COMMON FIREPLACE TYPES

Choose the fuel and appliance before selecting stone, tile, brick, or a mantel.

ELECTRIC



\$-\$-\$

Lowest installation complexity. Good for ambiance and supplemental heat. Requires the correct electrical supply, recess depth, ventilation around the unit if listed, and service access.

DIRECT-VENT GAS



\$\$\$

Strong heat and realistic flame. Requires an approved gas supply, combustion air and exhaust vent path, electrical connection, access to controls, and listed clearances.

WOOD-BURNING



\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Traditional fire and off-grid appeal. Requires a listed firebox or approved masonry design, chimney, hearth protection, combustion clearances, ash handling, and regular maintenance.

TYPE	VENT / CHIMNEY	FUEL / POWER	PLANNING	RELATIVE COST
Electric	No combustion vent	Dedicated power as specified	Low to moderate	\$-\$-\$
Direct-vent gas	Listed vent system	Gas + electrical	Moderate to high	\$\$\$
Wood-burning	Listed chimney	Wood + possible power	High	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

IMPORTANT

The relative cost reflects the complete system, not only the firebox. Venting, chimney, roof work, fuel supply, electrical work, framing, finish material, mantel, hearth, and cabinetry can change the level.

DO NOT ORDER FROM SIZE ALONE

Review the current installation manual for the exact model and options before ordering or framing.

FIREPLACE WALL STYLE GALLERY

Use these references to compare the overall look, then approve actual finish samples.



STACKED STONE - FULL HEIGHT



LARGE-FORMAT PORCELAIN



BRICK + TIMBER MANTEL



MINIMAL DRYWALL / PLASTER



STONE + WOOD ACCENT



DARK TILE + BUILT-INS

REFERENCE IMAGES

Concept images show design direction only. Stone color, grout, slab pattern, joint layout, firebox proportions, mantel projection, and safe clearances must be approved for the selected products.



WALL MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Match appearance, heat-zone requirements, cleaning, wall structure, and budget.

MATERIAL	STYLE	INSTALLATION	MAINTENANCE	RELATIVE COST
Painted drywall / smooth plaster	Minimal, clean	Simple only where approved	Easy touch-up	\$
Brick veneer	Traditional, industrial	Mortar or panel system	Low	\$\$
Manufactured stone veneer	Rustic to modern	Lath / mortar system or listed panel	Low	\$\$-\$\$\$
Natural stone	Premium, unique	Heavier; structure matters	Low	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Porcelain tile	Modern, many looks	Flat substrate + planned joints	Easy	\$\$-\$\$\$
Large-format slab	Seam-light, luxury	Special handling and layout	Easy	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$
Wood mantel / wood accents	Warm, rustic	Only outside listed heat zones	Periodic care	\$-\$\$\$

SUBSTRATE MATTERS

Drywall, cement board, masonry, metal framing, lath, mortar, adhesive, fasteners, and movement joints must match the selected appliance and finish system.

WEIGHT + ATTACHMENT

Natural stone, thick hearths, floating mantels, slab panels, and cabinetry may need blocking, engineered support, or special anchors before the wall is closed.

CLIENT TIP

Approve a physical sample board under the room lighting. Screen colors and reference photos are not reliable final selections.

STONE + BRICK FIREPLACE WALLS



STACKED STONE - FULL HEIGHT



BRICK VENEER + MANTEL

MANUFACTURED STONE VENEER

A common barndominium choice with many profiles and colors. Plan corners, ledges, returns, mortar style, top termination, outlet locations, and the transition at the firebox and floor.

BRICK VENEER

Provides a traditional, industrial, or farmhouse look. Select brick size, color range, bond pattern, mortar color, joint profile, mantel detail, hearth, and how the brick ends at adjacent walls.

FULL HEIGHT VS PARTIAL HEIGHT

Full-height stone or brick creates a strong focal point and works well with vaulted ceilings. Partial-height work can reduce visual weight and cost but needs a deliberate cap or transition.

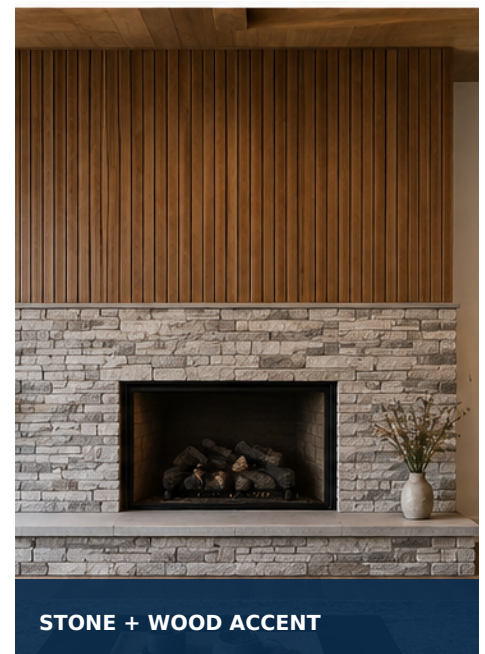
NATURAL VARIATION

Stone and brick vary in shade, texture, and size. Blend material from multiple boxes or pallets and approve a sample layout before completing the full wall.

CLIENT TIP

Do not decide the mantel after the masonry is finished. Mantel blocking, attachment, projection, and listed clearance should be coordinated first.

TILE, SLAB + MINIMAL FIREPLACE WALLS



PORCELAIN TILE / SLAB

Clean, durable, and available in stone, concrete, metal, or solid-color looks. Confirm panel size, seam locations, bookmatching, edge treatment, substrate flatness, handling, and cutouts.

DRYWALL / PLASTER LOOK

The least visually busy option. It is only appropriate where the selected appliance permits the wall assembly and finish. Heat, cracking, soot, and service-panel access must be considered.

WOOD ACCENTS

Timber mantels, slats, shiplap, and shelves add warmth, but they are combustible. Their location and projection must follow the appliance listing and approved design.

LARGE-FORMAT MATERIAL

A large porcelain or sintered-stone panel can reduce grout lines, but seams, lifting access, edge chipping, pattern alignment, cutouts, and replacement access need early planning.

MIXED MATERIALS

When stone, tile, wood, drywall, metal, and cabinets meet, draw the transitions before ordering. Confirm thicknesses so finish faces align cleanly.

TELEVISION ABOVE OR BESIDE THE FIREPLACE?

Plan viewing comfort, heat exposure, blocking, wiring, and service access together.



TV ABOVE - COMPACT FOCAL WALL



TV BESIDE - LOWER VIEWING HEIGHT

TV ABOVE

Keeps one centered focal point and saves wall space. It can place the screen higher and closer to heat. Select the fireplace first, then coordinate a listed heat-management option or mantel, blocking, outlet, data, conduit, and service path.

TV BESIDE

Often improves viewing height and reduces direct heat exposure. It needs a wider composition and careful cabinet, speaker, window, and furniture planning. This is usually the most flexible layout for screen size and future replacement.

THE SAFE DISTANCE IS MODEL-SPECIFIC

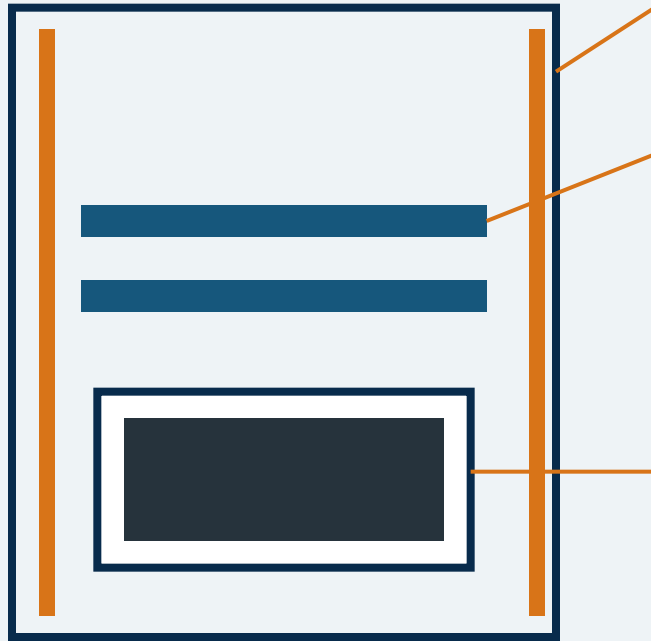
Do not use a generic internet dimension. Follow the fireplace installation manual, heat-management instructions, mantel rules, and the television manufacturer's temperature and mounting requirements.

CLIENT TIP

Mock up the screen and firebox on the wall with painter's tape before framing. Sit in the planned furniture location and check eye level and scale.

FRAMING, CHASE DEPTH + BLOCKING

The finished wall depends on what is planned behind it.



CHASE / STUD DEPTH

Sized for the exact appliance, vent, access, and finish.

BLOCKING

For TV, mantel, cabinets, shelves, slab anchors, and accessories.

FIREBOX OPENING

Rough opening, platform, service panel, and finish return follow the listed unit.

CONCEPTUAL WALL SECTION - NOT A CONSTRUCTION DETAIL

A

WALL GEOMETRY

Full height or partial height; flat, vaulted, or angled ceiling; centered or offset wall.

B

STRUCTURE

Stud or masonry assembly, headers, platform, heavy finish support, mantel anchors, and

C

ACCESS

Controls, shutoffs, blower, electrical components, removable panels, and future

D

FINISH THICKNESS

Board, mortar, lath, adhesive, tile, stone, slab, trim, and firebox surround depths.

E

ROOM COORDINATION

Windows, beams, ceiling fans, lighting, furniture, walk paths, speakers, and returns.

F

FLOOR / HEARTH

Hearth size, floor protection, slab recess, flooring transition, cleanout, and edge detail.

BEFORE CLOSING THE WALL

Photograph blocking, wiring, gas lines, venting, shutoffs, and framing with measurements. Keep the appliance manual and approved drawings with the project records.

COORDINATE UTILITIES BEFORE ROUGH-IN

The fireplace wall touches framing, electrical, fuel gas, HVAC, roofing, finishes, and inspections.

1

APPLIANCE DATA

Model, fuel, dimensions, rough opening, vent or chimney, clearances, power, gas pressure,

2

ROUTE THE SYSTEM

Plan electrical, gas, vent or chimney, combustion air when required, roof or sidewall

3

COORDINATE TRADES

Framer, electrician, plumber or gas fitter, HVAC, roofer, fireplace installer, mason or tile installer,

ELECTRICAL + LOW VOLTAGE

Confirm the required circuit, receptacle location, switch or controls, blower and ignition power, TV outlet, data, speaker wiring, lighting, and an accessible conduit for future cable changes. Keep wiring away from prohibited heat zones.

GAS + SHUTOFF

For gas units, confirm fuel type, appliance input, pipe sizing by the responsible trade, regulator requirements, shutoff location, pressure testing, connection access, and conversion kit when applicable. Do not bury required access.

VENT OR CHIMNEY PATH

Lay out the complete listed system before framing: offsets, support, firestops, clearances, attic or ceiling transitions, exterior termination, roof flashing, weather exposure, and future inspection access.

HVAC + ROOM COMFORT

A fireplace changes heat distribution. Coordinate supply registers, returns, ceiling fans, thermostat location, furniture, combustion-air provisions when required, and the intended role of the fireplace in heating the room.

PERMIT + INSPECTION

Confirm required building, mechanical, fuel-gas, electrical, chimney or fireplace approvals with the local authority. Inspection points vary by jurisdiction and appliance type.

ROOF AND WALL PENETRATIONS

Termination locations must also coordinate with windows, doors, overhangs, exterior metal panels, snow, service access, and the listed vent system.

CLEARANCES, HEAT + NONCOMBUSTIBLE FINISHES

There is no single universal fireplace-wall clearance.



THE LISTED APPLIANCE INSTRUCTIONS CONTROL

Clearances, hearth protection, combustible trim and mantels, facing material, framing, venting, chimney, heat management, and service access depend on the exact model and installation.

COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS

Wood studs, mantels, shelves, trim, shiplap, slats, cabinets, and furnishings must remain outside prohibited heat and clearance zones.

NONCOMBUSTIBLE DOES NOT MEAN AUTOMATIC

Cement board, stone, brick, tile, steel, and slab finishes still require an approved wall assembly, attachment method, joints, and temperatures within their ratings.

HEARTH + FLOOR PROTECTION

Wood-burning and some other units require specific floor protection. Coordinate size, thickness, support, projection, edge detail, and flooring transition before the slab or floor is finished.

TV, ART + DECOR

Heat can damage electronics, finishes, candles, artwork, and decorations even when they do not touch the firebox. Plan the heat path and keep combustibles within listed limits.

INSPECTION HOLD POINT

Before covering the wall, verify the approved appliance, framing, clearances, firestops, vent or chimney, gas and electrical work, blocking, and required rough inspections.

OWNER DOCUMENTS

Keep the model and serial number, manuals, warranty, installer information, approved drawings, inspection record, finish-care instructions, and service access information.



RELATIVE COST + WHAT CHANGES THE BUDGET

Dollar signs compare relative levels only; they are not project prices.

SCOPE	TYPICAL COMPLEXITY	RELATIVE COST	CLIENT NOTE
Slim electric fireplace + simple wall	Low	\$-\$	Best entry level
Premium electric + custom surround	Moderate	\$\$-\$\$\$	More size and features
Direct-vent gas fireplace wall	Moderate to high	\$\$\$	Fuel + venting
Wood-burning system + chimney	High	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$	Hearth + chimney
Painted drywall / plaster finish	Low	\$	Where approved
Brick veneer	Moderate	\$\$	Pattern and mortar matter
Manufactured stone veneer	Moderate	\$\$-\$\$\$	Corners add labor
Large-format porcelain / slab	High	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$	Special handling
Built-ins, cabinets + integrated TV	Moderate to high	\$\$-\$\$\$\$	Design drives range

UNIT + OPTIONS

Firebox size, fuel, glass, logs or media, blower, remote, heat-management kit, doors, trim, and warranty.

WALL + FINISH

Height, chase, hearth, mantel, corners, substrate, stone or tile pattern, slab seams, cabinets, and lighting.

SITE + TRADES

Gas and power distance, vent or chimney route, roof work, structural support, permits, inspections, and access.

CLIENT TIP

Approve the complete wall scope, not just the fireplace price. Ask what is included for appliance, installation, utilities, framing, finish, mantel, hearth, TV prep, permits, and startup.



CLIENT SELECTION CHECKLIST

Approve these items before framing and rough-in whenever possible.

FIREPLACE + PERFORMANCE

- ☐ Exact manufacturer, model, size, fuel, and finish
- ☐ Primary purpose: ambiance, supplemental heat, or major room heat
- ☐ Heat output and room-comfort expectations
- ☐ Vent, chimney, combustion-air, gas, and electrical requirements
- ☐ Controls, blower, remote, glass, logs or media, and service access

WALL + ROOM DESIGN

- ☐ Wall width, height, chase depth, ceiling angle, and centerline
- ☐ Full-height or partial-height finish and top termination
- ☐ Hearth, mantel, shelves, cabinets, niches, and lighting
- ☐ TV above or beside, viewing height, blocking, power, data, and conduit
- ☐ Furniture, windows, beams, ceiling fans, speakers, and walk paths

MATERIAL + DETAILS

- ☐ Stone, brick, tile, slab, plaster, metal, or mixed finish
- ☐ Physical sample, color range, texture, mortar or grout, and sheen
- ☐ Corners, returns, edges, seams, joints, transitions, and trim
- ☐ Substrate, attachment, structural support, and finish thickness
- ☐ Flooring transition, hearth edge, base trim, and cleaning plan

APPROVAL + HANDOFF

- ☐ Current installation manual and approved project drawings
- ☐ Required permits, inspections, and responsible installers
- ☐ Rough-in photos with measurements before wall closure
- ☐ Model and serial number, manuals, warranty, and startup instructions
- ☐ Final operating, cleaning, safety, and maintenance demonstration

READY TO PLAN YOUR FIREPLACE WALL?

Bring your inspiration photos, preferred fuel type, TV size, room plan, and finish ideas. We will coordinate the complete wall before construction.

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