Fireback Installation & User Guide

A clay fireback can be installed within the fireplace recess. The installation process needs to be followed to keep heat from other components and to create expansion joints to avoid cracking of the fireback.

Installation steps for clay firebacks

1. Build 100mm blockwork to leave a 50mm gap behind the fireback to reduce the space to be infilled later with vermiculite mix.
2. Cut the fireback across the heavy horizontal score line
3. Insert the bottom piece into the fireplace recess with the front plumb to the back of the cast iron/granite inset panel (leave room for non-combustible sealing rope). (The fireback should be level with the finished hearth level).
4. Line the rear and sides of the fireback with combustible isolator such as corrugated cardboard. (This is intended to char, leaving an expansion gap to avoid cracking in use).
5. Infill the gap behind the cardboard with a weak vermiculite/cement (or vermiculite/lime) mix. This should be damp but not wet.
6. Join the top section (preferably set back some 1.5mm to 3mm) to the bottom section using fire cement
7. Infill behind the top section with the same weak vermiculite/cement mix (no cardboard is required at the top). Flaunch up inside the throat lintel with 7-1 sand/cement mix to provide a smooth lead into the flue with a throat opening depth of 100mm to 120mm.
8. Use a non-combustible sealing rope to seal the front edge of the fireback to the fire surround (fire cement can be used to dress the edge).
9. All installations must be allowed to dry out slowly. This typically takes 3 days.

   (Firebacks should be stored in a dry place or they will take weeks to dry out).









Using the fire

- All installations must be allowed to dry out slowly. This typically takes 3 days.
- Only small fires should be burnt for the first 4 or 5 days of use, no matter how long this may be after installation. To make a small fire only burn small amounts of kindling.
- Petroleum coke must not be used with these firebacks.
- Do not poke the fireback with a poker or any other tool this is likely to crack it.
- Hairline cracks are likely to occur in the fireback but unless these develop into larger cracks or cause the disintegration of the fireback they will not hinder normal use.

Differences between fondu and fireclay firebacks

- Fireclay firebacks are more susceptible to cracking than fondu ones. As a result it is even more important to follow the fitting instructions above (including splitting the fireback in 2 pieces).
- Hairline cracks are likely to occur in the fireback but unless these develop into larger cracks or cause the disintegration of the fireback they are will not hinder normal use.

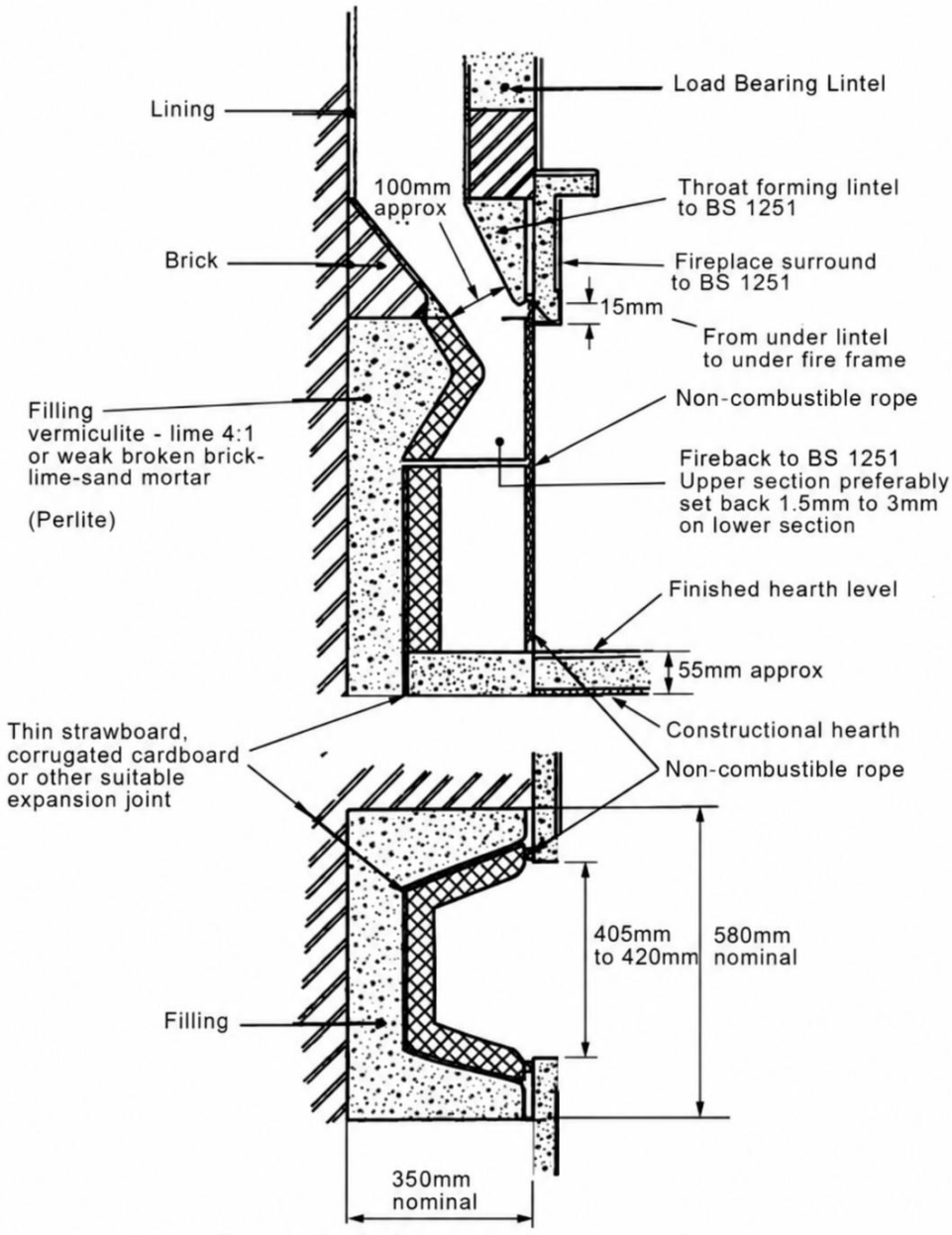


Fig 1. Setting for 400 mm. nominal inset open fire.