

CARE & MAINTENANCE

Cast stone fireplace mantels are designed to be a permanent architectural feature. With proper care, they will age beautifully and maintain their character for decades. Like natural stone, cast stone is porous and requires thoughtful handling, especially around heat, soot, and household use.



What to Expect

Variations in color, texture, and surface character are normal. These are part of the material and not defects. Over time, cast stone may develop subtle tonal changes that add depth and character.

Routine Cleaning for Cast Stone Mantels

Regular Maintenance

- Dust with a soft cloth or soft brush
- Clean using warm water and a clean white cloth or a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser
- Dry the surface after cleaning

Heavier Cleaning

- If the surface becomes soiled:
- Mix a mild detergent with warm water
 - Gently clean the surface
 - Rinse thoroughly with clean water
 - Dry completely

General stone cleaners may be used if they are neutral pH and specifically intended for stone. Avoid all acidic or alkaline products.

Care During Installation and Construction

- Store mantels off the ground, on non-staining pallets
- Keep away from foot traffic, tools, and metal debris
- Cover with breathable, non-staining material
- Do not trap moisture against the surface
- Protect installed mantels from mortar, grout, soot, and dust

Once installed, mantels and surrounds should remain covered until all construction work is complete.

Power washing, sandblasting, and metal brushes should never be used on cast stone.

Fireplaces, Heat, and Preventing Mantel Stains

- Cast stone is non-combustible, but improper use can still cause surface damage
- Avoid direct contact with burning logs or embers, as sparks can etch or discolor the surface
- Cover the fireplace surround when cleaning the firebox and address soot stains early
- Ensure proper fireplace ventilation to help prevent smoke staining

Cast stone mantels are often used as functional shelves, so simple precautions help preserve the finish. Always place candles on trays, avoid plants and food on the stone, and use felt pads under décor to prevent stains, scratches, or moisture damage.

Final Thoughts

A cast stone mantel is meant to be lived with, not worried over. Most issues come from harsh cleaning or preventable exposure to heat, moisture, or chemicals. Mantels are typically sealed at the factory, but sealing does not make the stone stain-proof, so resealing every two years with a high-quality penetrating sealer is recommended. Apply sealers to a clean, dry surface and test in an inconspicuous area first. When applied correctly, sealers should not change the appearance of the stone.

Treat cast stone like natural stone, clean gently, and address spills early. If you ever have questions about care, cleaning, or repairs, Oltre Castings and Design is here to help.