

BS 1251:2015



BSI Standards Publication

# Open-fireplace components

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### Summary of pages

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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 March 2015. It was prepared by Technical Committee RHE/28, *Domestic solid mineral fuel appliances*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 1251:1987, which is withdrawn.

### Information about this document

The principal changes introduced by this revision are as follows.

- Mention of different materials currently used in the construction of fireplaces and their suitability.
- The minimum projection of the hearth of inset open fires has been decreased in accordance with the Building Regulations [1], [2] and [3].
- Requirements are specified for mechanical fixings for cut stone and boxed section fireplace surrounds to secure them to chimney breasts.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

It should be noted that many desirable properties of open-fireplace components cannot be specified objectively. However, attention is drawn to the notes in this standard and to BS 8303, which gives guidelines for their assembly.

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## 1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for components which, when assembled in accordance with BS 8303, form the setting for inset open fires of nominal sizes 400 mm and 450 mm (see Figure 1).

Clause 3 specifies requirements for firebacks for inset open fires without boilers or underfloor air supply used with solid fuel.

Clause 4 specifies requirements for prefabricated fireplace surrounds and hearths and excludes constructional hearths at floor level (see Figure 1).

Clause 5 specifies requirements for precast, reinforced concrete throat-forming lintels, excluding those designed to form part of a complete appliance.

*NOTE 1 Lintels conforming to this British Standard are suitable for use as load-bearing supports for brickwork.*

*NOTE 2 Requirements for fireguards are specified in BS 8423.*

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 4550-3, *Methods of testing cement – Part 3: Physical tests*

BS 4550-6, *Methods of testing cement – Part 6: Standard sand for mortar cubes*

BS 8303, *Installation of domestic heating and cooking appliances burning solid mineral fuels*

BS EN 197-1, *Cement – Part 1: Composition, specifications and conformity criteria for common cements*

BS EN 12390-3, *Testing hardened concrete – Part 3: Compressive strength of test specimens*

BS EN 12620, *Aggregates for concrete*

BS EN 14647, *Calcium alumina cement – Composition, specifications and conformity*

## 3 Firebacks

### 3.1 Design

Firebacks shall be designed for installation in two, four or five pieces, as shown in Figure 2a).

*NOTE Two-piece firebacks may be manufactured in two separate sections, or in one section with suitable horizontal scribing to enable the pieces to be readily separated before installation.*

### 3.2 Dimensions

The dimensions of firebacks, when assembled without jointing, shall be as given in Figure 2b) and Table 1.

*NOTE 1 Internal and vertical external angles may be sharp or rounded to a radius not exceeding 10 mm. External edges at the rear may be rounded to reduce the risk of damage to the edges.*